



FRIENDS OF

# Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

SPRING 2018

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

## Recent Park Investments

For the average person visiting the park, you assume there will be bathrooms, visitors centers, maintenance buildings, vehicle sheds, and gates. What you do not think about is that every building and gate requires a key. A big ring of keys used to be a part of every employee's uniform. This year the Friends paid for a new simplified key system to reduce the number of keys that the employees have to carry. Not a very high profile project for the Friends, but we have been told that not only has it reduced the weight of the keys carried by each staff person, but more importantly it has increased efficiency by reducing the number of extra trips required to track down the right key to open the various sheds and gates in the park.

Another recent purchase was hanging baskets for the front porch of the park visitors center.



## Mont Alto Students Contribute to Pine Grove

Winter wind storms brought down a number of trees, and park staff delivered them to us for cutting and splitting. The task of turning the huge logs into firewood seemed daunting for our volunteers, but 13 students and faculty from Penn State Mont Alto volunteered their time, energy, equipment, and wood cutting skills to help us get ready for the camping season. Selling firewood is not only an important fundraiser for the Friends, it has become a service on which the campers depend. The funds raised by the Friends are reinvested back into the park.



## Woody Owl Volunteer Day

Every spring, the park offers free camping to families and individuals who offer to volunteer on "Woody Owl Weekend". This year, the weather was very wet and rainy. Even so, we had 19 volunteers pitch in to clean the benches at the amphitheater and reroute a portion of Creek Trail near the campground. The Friends provided hotdogs and hamburgers to the volunteers afterward.



## Campfire Campouts

The Friends continue to support the park staff in improving and expanding program offerings in the park. Last summer we purchased tents and other camping gear for non-campers to experience camping at the park. Lea Smith, park Environmental Educator, will be offering the Campout Weekends three times this season in June, July, and August. The first campout will be June 22-24 and will feature learning how to cook over a campfire. Food will be provided by the Friends. The cost of the program is only \$20 per person. *Pre-registration is required:* contact Lea in the park office at 717-486-7174.



## 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)

*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.*

## **New Suite at the Ironmaster's Mansion**

This year we partnered with the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, and the park to create a private bedroom suite at the Ironmaster's Mansion. This beautiful suite is perfect for when the Mansion is being used as a wedding venue, but it is also a nice place to stay when you just do not feel like camping. The room is available to rent on a nightly basis for \$150 for one night and \$100 for each additional night up to five nights.

Make reservations online at <https://ironmastersmansion.com/private-guest-suite/>.



*Modern comfort is available in the private bedroom suite at the historic Ironmaster's Mansion*



**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—**

### JUNE

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

### JULY

- 21 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike—hike to celebrate the creation of the first state forest and first state park.  
28 Full Moon Hike—enjoy a hike in the park on a moonlit summer evening.

### SEPTEMBER

- 29 National Public Lands Day—volunteer clean-up event.

### OCTOBER

- 7 Walk in Penn's Woods—celebrate Penn's Woods in the park as part of this statewide event.  
20-21 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Furnace Fest—two-day craft, music, and history festival in the park.

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

## Iron Run and Charcoal Challenge Trail Races

Our next fundraising event is a pair of trail races on Saturday, June 9. *It is not too late* to register as a runner or volunteer for the Charcoal Challenge 5K run (or walk) and the more challenging Iron Run Half Marathon. Usually about 250 runners participate in the event. Timing is provided by Pretzel City Sports.

This year we are very fortunate to have three new sponsors for the races. Purple Lizard Maps is donating Michaux Forest maps for each of the winners in the different age group categories, REI is donating prizes for the male and female winners of each race, and Fleet Feet Sports in Mechanicsburg has been helping us promote the races by reaching out to local trail runners.

Online registration is available through [www.RunReg.com](http://www.RunReg.com) through Monday, June 4, or you can register on race day.

If you are interested in volunteering to help out with the water stations, email us at [pgfvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:pgfvolunteers@gmail.com).

## Annual Fall Furnace Fest October 20 and 21

Fall Furnace Fest is not that far off. This will be the tenth annual Fall Fest at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. If you are interested in volunteering for Fall Fest, contact Diane at [pgfvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:pgfvolunteers@gmail.com).

We are always in need of old long-sleeved shirts and long pants, either children's or adult sizes. We use the clothing to make scarecrows at Fall Fest. You can drop your clothing donation off at the park office.



*Help the friends to make scarecrows such as these at Fall Fest by donating old long-sleeved shirts and long pants*

## In Memory Donations

The Friends have recently received donations in memory of Victoria Rish who spent many summers in the park. The funds are being used to purchase porch furniture for the Ironmaster's Mansion.



## Celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Parks and Forests

The first state forest was created on May 23, 1893, and the first state park was created at Valley Forge on May 30, 1893.

To celebrate, the Friends will be hosting a hike on July 21. **Meet at the grassy area behind the snack bar near Fuller Lake at 10 a.m.**

Special guest Marci Mowery, president of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, will lead the four-mile loop hike to Old Railroad Bed Road to Mountain Creek Trail to Old Railroad Bed Road and back to Fuller Lake to complete the loop.

Bring water. Friendly dogs on a leash are welcome. *We hope you will join us!*