



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

SPRING 2022

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TRANSPARENT DISPLAYS

For most visitors, it is hard to imagine that there once was a bustling industrial operation in what is now the center of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. To illustrate the history of ironmaking here, the Friends partnered with State Park staff to create two new history displays.

Park maintenance staff built and installed the wooden frames for two “see through” displays. One is at the east end of Fuller Lake past the beach, while the other is near the furnace stack in the historic core of the park.

One “see-through” transparent wayside at the furnace shows the stone stack at the center of various buildings and machinery around 1883.



The “see through” display showing a picture of the furnace around 1883 was installed at the edge of Quarry Road

A second “see-through” display at the east end of Fuller Lake shows the “old ore hole” when it was a quarry in the 1870s. Many thanks to our chair, Andre Weltman, for his legwork on making this creative project happen.



This is the image installed at the eastern edge of Fuller Lake

KOPPENHAVER TRAIL BRIDGE

In late May, volunteers and park staff worked together to replace the small trail bridge midway along Koppenhaver Trail. Volunteers tore down the old 30-foot “pole bridge” and replaced it using \$550 in lumber and hardware donated by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park and two utility poles donated by First Energy.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers for their hard work in building a bridge that will be used by thousands of people every year! It is located not far from the large metal bridge across Mountain Creek we installed in 2020.



The trail crew poses next to the new poles across the narrow waterway



The just-completed trail bridge compared to the long-serving bridge that had been repaired many times in recent years!

FIREWOOD \$5

Sold by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

All proceeds stay at this park to support environmental, educational & recreational programs throughout the year.

The Friends woodshed is conveniently located in the Family Campground

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.

FLOWER BASKETS

Each year the Friends donate baskets of geraniums to hang on the porch of the State Park Office/Visitor's Center. In an effort to improve habitat for native birds and insects, for 2022 we instead purchased native plants. Park staff planted the hanging baskets with wild geranium, foamflower, creeping phlox, wild ageratum, coral bells, hay scented fern, and New York fern. The plants will be transplanted along park trails at the end of the summer.



One of thirteen hanging baskets of native plants at the State Park Office

WATER BOTTLES

The newest item for sale in our little store inside the State Park Office is metal water bottles. These reusable water bottles in red or grey are a perfect gift for your favorite hiker or camper! We recently stocked up on fleeces and sweatshirts along with local history books and maps, so stop in and check out all our merchandise.



Our water bottles are priced at \$20



Scan QR code for more information on park events

– or go to –

https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/pine_grove_furnace_state_park



Scan QR code to join the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace and to help support our state park.



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—

WOODSY OWL WEEKEND VOLUNTEER DAY, AUGUST 20, 2022, 9 A.M.–12:30 P.M.: Volunteers will assist with projects in the Organized Group Campground (OGT). Volunteers will have a picnic lunch provided by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park and receive two nights of free tent camping at the Ironworkers Organized Group Camp. The two nights of camping are on August 19 and 20, 2022. *Preregistration is required.*

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY, SEPTEMBER 24: Volunteers are needed to help replace invasive plants with native plants and to maintain trails and structures in the park. Bring your work gloves and be prepared to get dirty!

FALL FURNACE FEST, OCTOBER 15 AND 16: A fun family weekend with food and craft vendors, entertainment, and historical demonstrations. Saturday night will feature the annual pumpkin parade followed by the Legend of the Hairy Hand. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Diane at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com.

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

BOY SCOUT PROJECT

An old log building, known by many as the original snack bar for Fuller Lake Beach or as a former lifeguard shack, received a major facelift this spring during an Eagle Scout project led by Carson Fahnestock. The small structure on Fuller Field near the lake had deteriorated due to poor rain drainage and was urgently in need of repair.

Carson, a member of Troop 190 in Grantham, worked with the park to come up with a budget, donations, supplies, and volunteers. His plan included adding a rain gutter, replacing badly rotten logs along the bottom front of the cabin, repairing the chinking, and staining the entire exterior. Sixteen volunteers, including eight Boy Scouts, assisted in the project.

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park contributed \$500 toward the overall cost of \$4,352. Other donors

included the American Legion Mechanicsburg, the American Legion Enola, the American Legion Mt. Holly, Home Depot, the Lower Allen VFW, the Kiwanis Club, the Mechanicsburg Club, the Knights of Columbus, and Carson's family.

According to Carson, it was a personal challenge to guide and keep on top of the entire project. He also noted that the rainy weather added additional complications, and it was not easy to move the three 500-pound utility poles that replaced the rotting logs.

The improved building is a convenient storage area for park staff and volunteers, but it will not be renovated into a concession stand as in the past.



Carson pointing out the rotten logs that needed to be replaced. A rain gutter was installed to prevent future water damage.



Eight scouts assisted in staining the entire cabin this past May



Carson showing off the results of his efforts. Thank you for spearheading this project!