



FRIENDS OF

# Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

SUMMER 2018

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

## Family Camping Weekends

The staff and Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park have teamed up to offer three family weekend campouts this summer. This is an easy and fun way to introduce your family to camping and learn some new skills. The meals cooked over an open fire have earned rave reviews, and thankfully, there have been enough pop up tents to provide some rain protection.



The most recent campout focused on survival skills. The participants learned the basics in knot skills, making a fire, treating your drinking water, navigation in the woods, and building a shelter.

## Rain, Rain, and More of the Same

It has been a very rainy summer, but that has not kept the campers away. The campground has been full most weekends! Thankfully, Pine Grove Furnace State Park did not have to deal with the flooding that other parks experienced. There have been some minor road, gravel lot, and trail washouts, and the park did have to close Laurel Lake for a few days due to high water and debris coming down Mountain Creek. Whenever it is not raining, the staff has been working hard just to maintain the park's grounds, which has limited



other routine efforts. Mainly, the staff has been very busy mowing the grass again and again this summer.

## Van Wagner Celebrates 125 years of Pennsylvania State Parks

Join Pennsylvania storyteller and singer Van Wagner for a performance at the Furnace Stack Pavilion on Saturday, September 29 at 1:30 p.m. In celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our state parks, Van Wagner will trace the creation, conservation, recreation, and family fun of our state parks.

Van Wagner's music and stories are about Pennsylvania history. He has released 23 original albums and in 2009 published a book with CDs titled *Coal Dust, Rust & Saw Dust*.

Bring the entire family and your lawn chairs for this performance!



## Walk in Penn's Woods

Join the Friends for a "Walk in Penn's Woods" on Sunday, October 7 when Pennsylvanians across the state will walk in—and celebrate—Penn's Woods! Rural, urban, and suburban woods, state and national forests and parks, municipal watersheds, conserved areas, private lands, and industry in the state's 67 counties will hold open houses and guided woods walks showcasing the multiple values and diverse uses of our state's priceless forest resources.

The goal is to have 100 hikes in Penn's Woods on October 7. *Details for the hike at Pine Grove Furnace will be available soon on Facebook and the DCNR website.*

## A Second Trail Bridge

The Friends and park staff have been coordinating on building another trail bridge over Mountain Creek. The plan is to expand the park's trail system by connecting the Mountain Creek Trail to the Koppenhaver Trail. The park has begun work on the permit process, and the Friends have reached out to a local business to help with a design. Stay tuned for updates.

## 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.

## Fall Furnace Fest

The park staff and Friends have been getting ready for Fall Furnace Fest on October 20 and 21. In addition to many returning food and craft vendors, the Birds of Prey, a broom maker, and the WoodMobile will be back this year. For the first time, we are pleased to offer a Native American cultural demonstration, and several new vendors have signed up, including a furniture maker. Rumor has it that Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl will be making return visits!



**Silent Auction:** One of the ways that we raise funds at Fall Furnace Fest is through our Silent Auction. If you would like to contribute something for the Silent Auction, please drop the item off at the park office. Be sure to include the retail value along with your name and address.

**Volunteers:** *The success of Fall Furnace Fest depends on the contributions of many volunteers. We need volunteers* to hand out Fall Fest maps, assist with the hayride, help children learn how to make candles and scarecrows, or even dress up as Smokey and Woodsy Owl. If you are able to help out for just a couple of hours or as much as half a day, please contact Diane Velozo at [pgfvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:pgfvolunteers@gmail.com).



**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—

### SEPTEMBER

- 29** National Public Lands Day—enjoy a rewarding volunteer morning at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. All tools are provided, and no experience is necessary. Afterwards, join us at a potluck lunch: please bring a covered dish to share; hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace.

Please register online at <http://eventsreg.dcnr.pa.gov/register/create/1371163> or call the park office at 717-486-7174.

### OCTOBER

- 20-21** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Furnace Fest—join us for a two-day family-oriented weekend festival with many activities including live music, hay rides, history demonstrations, food and crafts, and the pumpkin float/Legend of the Hairy Hand at Fuller Lake. *We need volunteers* to hand out Fall Fest maps, help families carve pumpkins and make scarecrows, assist visitors onto the hay ride, and help at the candle-making booth. If you are interested in volunteering, email [pgfvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:pgfvolunteers@gmail.com).

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