



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

SUMMER 2019

www.pinegrovefriends.org • 1100 Pine Grove Road, Gardners, PA 17324 • pinegrovefriends@gmail.com

Meet Anthony

Please welcome Anthony Kessler, the park's new Environmental Education Specialist. Anthony has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology from Millersville University. When he first graduated from college, he worked as a wildlife biologist aide researching fawn survival as part of the Deer Park Forest Study, a joint project of DCNR and the Game Commission. Anthony began working for the state parks at Black Moshannon State Park in 2017.



Anthony says the favorite part about his job is being in the outdoors doing recreational activities and teaching visitors about the history and wildlife of Pennsylvania. "Pine Grove Furnace State Park is a perfect fit for me because it has a diverse history and a wide array of recreational opportunities for every visitor.

I especially like the Koppenhaver Trail which is a loop trail that offers opportunities to see birds, flowers, mushrooms, butterflies, and mammals if you are quietly listening and looking." Anthony says he makes a point of including impromptu educational sessions during his hiking and kayaking programs whenever he encounters something of interest in the environment.

To subscribe to Anthony's emails regarding the park events, contact him at antkessler@pa.gov or look for his event schedule on the kiosks around the park.

National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day has become an annual joint workday effort of the Park and the Friends. The projects list has not been finalized yet, but normally volunteers help out with trail work, planting trees, pulling invasive plants, weeding, and sometimes painting and staining.

After a morning of volunteering, everyone gathers at the Furnace Stack Pavilion for a potluck lunch hosted by the Friends. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided—volunteers are asked to bring a dish to pass. To help us plan sufficient projects and buy enough hamburgers, we ask that interested volunteers sign up in advance by calling the park office at 717-486-7174 or you can sign up online at: <https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx>

Another Bridge Crossing Mountain Creek

Three years ago, the Friends installed a bridge to connect the two halves of the Mountain Creek Trail. This year, the Friends and the Park have been working on a plan to build a 60-foot pedestrian bridge over Mountain Creek to create a trail system that would connect the two primary recreation areas of the park. The Friends have applied for several grants to assist with funding the project, with the goal of installing the bridge next summer.

Currently, there are two separate trails between the Laurel Lake Day Use Area and the Fuller Lake Day Use Area. Mountain Creek Trail is a 1.4-mile trail that follows Mountain Creek upstream from Laurel Lake, while the Koppenhaver Trail is a 1-mile loop with a trailhead near Fuller Lake. The two trails are separated from each other by Mountain Creek.

A bridge connecting the two trails will create an easy off-road option to walk between the two lakes in the park. In addition, the new bridge will provide access from Koppenhaver Trail to Old Railroad Bed Road which is very close to where the Appalachian Trail ascends to Pole Steeple just south of Laurel Lake.

Fall Furnace Fest

Be sure to note Fall Furnace Fest on your calendar for October 19 and 20. This year, rather than a silent auction, the Friends will be raffling off several large items. We are especially grateful to Whirlpool in Carlisle for generously donating an electric stove and a dishwasher for the raffle during the festival. Watch for details as we get closer to the event.



We can always use volunteers for Fall Furnace Fest. Volunteers are needed to hand out maps to attendees, assist with the hayride and candle making, walk with Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl, and generally assist set up and take down. If you have a few hours, we would love your help at this fun-filled fall outdoor event in the park! We guarantee fun! Please contact Diane at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com for more details or to sign up!

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:

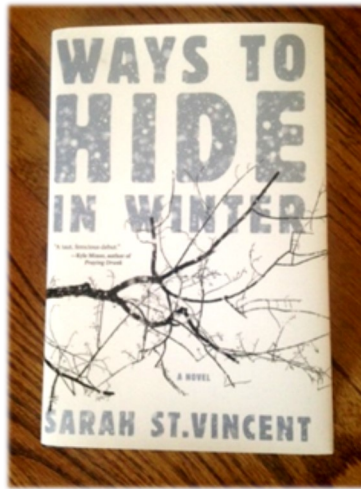
www.pinegrovefriends.org

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.

Ways to Hide in Winter (2018), a Novel by Sarah St. Vincent



Set in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, a young woman flips hamburgers at the General Store in the park and befriends a mysterious foreigner who is staying in the Ironmaster's Mansion next door.

The author, Sarah St. Vincent, is familiar with the park, having grown up in Pennsylvania, and at one time she even worked at the General Store.

This is a fun book to read just because you will recognize many of the locations.

Please note this book includes very adult themes and uses strong language. Also, some of the local history in the novel is a bit imaginative.

☞ Memorial Gifts ☜

The Friends recently received more than \$1,000 in donations in memory of George Vandrew. George lived in Enola and had retired from Oberman Sheet Metal in Lemoyne. According to his son, the family had a cabin at Pine Grove Furnace and had many fond memories of those times.

George loved the outdoors and especially Pine Grove. The Friends are grateful for these donations and will use them to support recreation, education, and conservation in Pine Grove Furnace State Park.



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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 2019-2020—

SEPTEMBER

28 National Public Lands Day—a morning of volunteering followed by a potluck lunch.

OCTOBER

5 Walk in Penn's Woods—time and location TBD
19-20 11th Annual Fall Furnace Fest—a family weekend with food and craft vendors, entertainment, and historical demonstrations. Saturday night will feature the annual pumpkin parade and the Legend of the Hairy Hand.

JANUARY

1 First Day Hike in Pine Grove Furnace State Park—watch for more information in late fall.

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

Smokey Bear Turned 75

Smokey Bear has had a busy summer celebrating his 75th birthday throughout the country, but he did find time to stop by Pine Grove Furnace during his birthday tour. Led by Cindy Dunn, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, state officials applauded 75 years of preventing wild fires.

As part of the celebration, Secretary Dunn recognized the dedication and hard work of our state and local firefighters. Smokey and the firefighters wrapped up the series of speeches and photo opportunities with some birthday cake.

