



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

WINTER 2017

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Welcome to a New Park Manager

Michael Kutzmonich has been appointed as the new State Park Manager at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, effective September 17, 2016.

Mike will have the privilege to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania and residents of Cumberland County while overseeing this nationally significant historic and natural resource.

Mike holds a bachelor's degree in Ornamental Horticulture with a minor in Secondary Education from Delaware Valley College. Beginning his career in the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks in 2006, he has served in multiple management positions throughout the Pennsylvania State Parks system.

In 2006, Mike was assigned as a park manager trainee to Park Region 1 and 3, based in Emporium and Shellsburg. During his initiation into the state parks management continuum, he became familiar with several south-central and north-central parks, including Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

In 2007, Mike's assignments took him to the southeast corner of the state, where he served as the Assistant Manager of French Creek State Park Complex in Berks and Chester Counties. In 2011, he accepted promotion to the position of Park Manager of Ridley Creek State Park; management of White Clay Creek State Park was added to his responsibilities in 2014.

Please welcome Mike and his family to Pine Grove Furnace State Park as he embarks on this new endeavor for the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.



New Bridge on the Mountain Creek Trail

Mountain Creek Trail is open for hiking! A lot of hard work went into restoring the trail and installing a sturdy 55-foot hiking bridge. In total, more than 1,000 hours of staff and volunteer time went into the project.

We are especially appreciative of the funding provided by the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau in Carlisle and the South Mountain Partnership based in Boiling Springs. To commemorate the improved trail and new bridge, we will be hosting a public ceremony on April 22, Earth Day.



The new hiking bridge across Mountain Creek

First Day Hike to Start the New Year

For the first time, the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace hosted a First Day Hike on January 1, 2017. The 3.2-mile hike featured the newly restored Mountain Creek Trail, including the recently completed 55-foot trail bridge. Pine Grove Furnace was one of 28 state parks offering hikes on New Year's Day. Cindy Dunn, Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, kicked off the hike by noting that First Day Hikes have become a popular and healthy way to start the new year.

The Friends group provided hot chocolate, mulled cider, and coffee along with homemade cookies for the 110 hikers who participated. The mild weather made for a perfect day to be outdoors!



Participants in the 2017 First Day Hike next to Laurel Lake

LEADERSHIP

Andre Weltman, *Chair*
Mary Soderberg, *Vice Chair*
William Breen, *Treasurer*
Diane Velozo, *Secretary*
Sue Breen
Josh Burleigh
Steve Dodd
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)

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.

8th Annual Fall Furnace Festival

The warm sunny weather made for a very successful Fall Furnace Festival. More than 8,300 people turned out for the 8th annual Fall Fest. Park staff along with 100 volunteers and about 70 food and craft vendors made sure there was something for everyone to enjoy! Carving pumpkins and making scarecrows was so popular that we sold out of pumpkins on Saturday and used up all of the scarecrow clothing on Sunday.

We are already beginning to plan for the 2017 Fall Furnace Fest scheduled for October 21 and 22. If you have old long-sleeved shirts and long pants for making scarecrows, please drop them off at the park office. If you are interested in helping out, contact Diane Velozo at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com



Smokey Bear poses with our new Park Manager, Mike Kutzmonich

Thank You Volunteers for Your Service to the Park

How much do we love Pine Grove Furnace State Park, based on volunteer hours? A whole lot: during the 2016 season, more than 250 volunteers logged in over 6,400 hours. Wow, that is a lot of love! We are deeply grateful to all our volunteers for their dedication.



Volunteers at the Friends booth during Fall Furnace Fest

—Activity Calendar 2017—

APRIL

22 Earth Day—volunteers are needed to get the park ready for the busy summer season

MAY

19-21 Woodsy Owl weekend—volunteer activities and a picnic lunch sponsored by the Friends; sign up via the State Park office

JUNE

10 7th annual Iron Run half marathon and Charcoal

Challenge 5K run/walk to benefit the Friends—sign up at www.RunReg.com; volunteers are needed

SEPTEMBER

30 National Public Lands Day—help to maintain trails and remove invasive plants in the park

OCTOBER

21-22 9th Annual Fall Furnace Fest—join us for a 2-day family oriented weekend event with many activities including music, hay rides, food, and the pumpkin float/legend of the Hairy Hand at Fuller Lake

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