



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

WINTER/SPRING 2019

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

Annual First Day Hike

The First Day Hike on January 1 is growing in popularity throughout the country. America's State Parks First Day Hikes is a national initiative in all fifty states that began in 2012, and each year more parks and individuals participate. According to DCNR, nearly 3,000 hikers (and 134 dogs!) got a jump start on their New Year's resolutions, exercising and connecting with nature on First Day Hikes at 31 Pennsylvania state parks. Hikers trekked about 7,755 miles combined...more than three times the length of the Appalachian Trail, which runs from Maine to Georgia.



A couple of hundred friends heading off on the First Day Hike

In Pine Grove Furnace State Park alone, 267 people came out for the park's third annual First Day Hike. We did not even bother to count the dogs! The Friends provided hot beverages and homemade cookies. John Norbeck, DCNR Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry, along with Rob Shaw and Andre Weltman led the hike. Next year we plan to offer several hike options—a shorter hike geared toward young families and a longer hike (3-4 miles) for those who want to work off some holiday calories.

Best Wishes to Lea

Lea Smith, our Environmental Education Specialist, has accepted a new position with DCNR in Harrisburg. After five years of coordinating the educational programs in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Lea will be transferring to the DCNR central office in Harrisburg. She will be using her frontline experience with park educational programs to manage the statewide DCNR calendar of events, publications for resource management, campground maps, and park maps for the entire state system of 121 parks. Best wishes to Lea and her family!

Friends Campground Library

Beginning this season, the Friends will be sponsoring a lending library bookshelf in the woodshed of the Family Campground. Campers should feel free to borrow a book or perhaps donate a book for others to enjoy. The Friends Library will be open whenever the woodshed is open.



Donation by MFA

The Michaux Forest Association, an organization of cabin owners, has donated a second camera to the Michaux State Forest for use by the rangers to help reduce graffiti and illegal dumping in the forest. The first camera was purchased three years ago, and it has had a significant impact in both identifying vandals and reducing vandalism. Thank you MFA!

Come Out and Volunteer

Volunteers do make a difference! All together we donated about 3,000 hours of volunteer time in 2018 to Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Volunteers help the park by maintaining the hiking trails, spitting firewood for the campground, leading hikes and historical tours, battling invasive plants, gardening, hosting at the campground, helping out at events like Fall Fest and the Iron Run trail race, managing our Facebook page, and even preparing this newsletter. Our next volunteer work day is scheduled for Earth Day on April 27. Join us for a morning of volunteering followed by a potluck lunch. The Friends will be providing the hot dogs and hamburgers. It helps to know how many people are coming so that the park can plan and have enough tools and projects for everyone—either call the park office at 717-486-7174 or register online at www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx

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)

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.

Iron Run and Charcoal Challenge Trail Races

Registration is open for the 9th annual Charcoal Challenge 5K run (or walk) and the more challenging Iron Run Half Marathon on Saturday, June 8. Timing is provided by Pretzel City Sports, and the Friends provide a variety of pre and post-race snacks. This fun event takes you through the woods of the park and parts of the Michaux State Forest and draws about 250 runners. Register before May 13 to guarantee a race shirt and to take advantage of the early registration discount. After that date, you can register online until Monday, June 3 or on site the morning of the races. Online registration is available for the half marathon at www.Runreg.com/8589 or for the 5K at www.Runreg.com/8590 or you can pick up a paper registration form in the park office.

This event is hosted by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park, and all proceeds support our wonderful park. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the water stations or course markings, email us at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com.



Ready, set...eager runners await the start of the Charcoal Challenge 5K



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 2019—

APRIL

27 Earth Day—9 to 12: a morning of volunteering, meeting others, and giving back to the park.

MAY

18 Woodsy Owl Weekend—two nights of free camping in exchange for a morning of volunteering.

JUNE

8 9th annual fundraiser trail races—Iron Run Half Marathon and Charcoal Challenge 5K run/walk.

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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.

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

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRIENDS OF PINE GROVE FURNACE STATE PARK.

You can download a membership application from our website <http://pinegrovefriends.org/>.

You may also renew or make a donation online. Go to <http://pinegrovefriends.org/> for more information.

FRIENDS OF PINE GROVE FURNACE STATE PARK

Mission Statement:

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park (FOPGF) exists to keep history alive and promote the educational and recreational programs of the park and surrounding areas through special events and trail development while protecting the park's natural resources.

Annual Membership Application

- NEW MEMBERSHIP
- RENEWAL

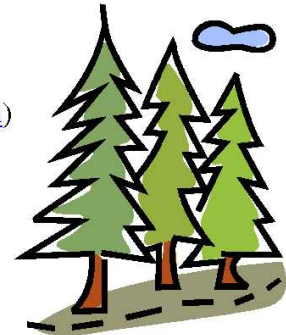
Individual \$10.00

Family \$15.00

I'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

I'm interested in volunteering

- Earth Day volunteer work day
- Iron Run/Charcoal Challenge fundraiser races volunteer
- help split firewood (sold at the campground)
- Fall Furnace Fest volunteer (please email PGFvolunteers@gmail.com)
- Public Lands Day volunteer work day



Mail membership form and payment to:

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace
1100 Pine Grove Road
Gardners, PA 17324

Please make checks payable to "PA Parks and Forest Foundation" (PPFF) and write "FOPGF" on memo line

NAME(S)			
STREET			
CITY			
STATE		ZIP CODE	
PHONE			
EMAIL			

DATE _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ CHECK NUMBER _____

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Memberships are for 12 months, beginning each March