

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace Board Meeting

Minutes for November 8th, 2014

Board in attendance: A. Weltman (president), M. Soderberg (vice-president), B. Breen (treasurer), D. Velozo (secretary), S. Breen, R. Shaw, B. Weiser, D. Weiser, and S. Benson (Park Manager and *ex-officio* Board member) Also present: M. Schmidt (volunteer coordinator)

Board membership

- Rob Shaw has agreed to join the Board and was unanimously voted in, welcome!

Treasurer's report

- Our current balance is approximately \$30,000, reflecting \$6,600 net income from our single largest event and money-maker: the annual Fall Furnace Festival. Thanks to our Treasurer for helpfully listing income & expenses for the Festival. Some expenses were higher this year such as advertising and shuttle buses. (A detailed report is available upon request.)

Park Manager's comments

- Park is now entering winter mode. Seasonal staff will return in March 2015.
- Visitor's Center (front office and especially the adjoining museum) will be renovated according to plans developed by DCNR and an outside consultant.
- Park Store contract was put out to bid and will have a new concessionaire in 2015.
- Gratitude to Friends members and all the volunteers who made this past year's events a success, including especially Fall Furnace Festival.

Fall Furnace Festival

- Extensive discussion of what worked and what did not at the 2014 event, and start of discussion on what to do for 2015.
- A special meeting should be held in May 2015 to work on volunteer issues. Thanks again to Margy for stepping up to help with volunteers (there were 71 this year) and many other issues not necessarily in her "job description"!
- Dates for the 2015 Fall Furnace Festival will be the weekend of October 17-18.

Friends general membership

- Discussed possibly moving to *quarterly* membership cycle instead of *annual*; decision to move "member year" to the end of March – for example, recent memberships will expire in March 2016.

Firewood sales

- Another workday is needed to split logs at Fuller parking and stack wood in the campground shed, to get ready for the 2015 camping season.

Friends projects for 2015 and beyond

- Began discussion of future projects. Possibilities include playgrounds at each of the two lakes, and installing bicycle lock racks at convenient places. Other possible projects can be discussed at the January Board meeting.
- See following pages for the schedule of major events in 2015.

NEXT BOARD MEETING is scheduled for January 17th

Pine Grove Furnace State Park 2015 Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to all who helped on Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, and/or Fall Furnace Festival this year!!!!

Volunteers play a huge role in the success of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. As well as giving back to the park and connecting folks to the outdoors, it allows people the ability to take ownership of their state park. Throughout the 2014 season volunteers both individually and in groups contributed 3,507 hours of service to Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

Service projects varied from litter pick-up, painting, plantings, invasive species removal, trail rehab, firewood splitting and bundling, grant facilitation, environmental education, Eagle Scout Projects and college externships.

If you were unable to volunteer this year or just became a new volunteer, we will need your help in 2015.

Earth Day Volunteer Event | Saturday, April 25 9am-12pm

Observe Earth Day by volunteering in to clean-up the park. There will be a variety of projects to cater to all age groups so bring out the entire family. Free camping (while sites are available) will be offered to non-profit groups that are interested in participating. Please meet at the Furnace Stack Pavilion. All tools will be provided, and participants should dress appropriately. Lunch will be provided by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

New for 2015: Woodsy Owl Weekend May 8-10

Do you like to volunteer as much as you like to camp in PA State Parks? This 2 for 1 volunteer opportunity is perfect for you or your family. Two nights of free camping in the campground for one morning of volunteering (with lunch included). You must register for the Woodsy Owl Weekend by calling the park office. [717-486-7174](tel:717-486-7174)

National Public Lands Day Volunteer Event and Volunteer Appreciation | Saturday, September 26 9am-1pm

Volunteers around the nation pitch in on National Public Lands Day to show appreciation for the nation's valuable and beautiful public lands. Join the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace and other volunteers for a rewarding day of volunteering at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Please meet at the Furnace Stack Pavilion. All tools will be provided, and participants should dress appropriately. After a morning of volunteering, all participants will be invited to celebrate with a volunteer appreciation lunch, beginning at noon. The main course will be provided to all participants courtesy of the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace Participants staying for lunch should bring a covered dish to share. During the lunch, the staff of Pine Grove Furnace will honor the dedicated volunteers that have contributed many hours to the park with a short awards presentation.

Fall Furnace Festival | Saturday and Sunday, October 17-18


Calling friends and neighbors of Pine Grove Furnace State Park! Volunteers are needed for the annual Fall Furnace Fest, the largest park event of the year. You can volunteer for a few hours or a whole day. If you are planning to attend the festival, please sign up to help for a couple hours while you are here? Festival hours are Saturday 11 am to 7 pm; Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm. Volunteers are needed to set-up, clean-up, help with activity stations, and be Smokey Bear. If you cannot attend the festival please consider donating adult or children's long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

Ongoing: Volunteers Opportunities

Volunteers are not just limited to helping at the park during the spring and fall volunteer days. Throughout the year volunteers are needed to work on ongoing park projects, new park projects, and environmental education programs. Whether you are one or 25 we can use your help. Please call the park office to set-up a volunteer work day and talk about possible projects. [717-486-7174](tel:717-486-7174)

For more information about programs and events at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, contact Lea Smith, Environmental Education Specialist, at [717-486-7174](tel:717-486-7174) or by email AngeleSmit@pa.gov.

If you need an accommodation to participate in PA State Park activities due to a disability, please contact the park before your visit. With at least three days' notice, interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of hearing are available for educational programs.



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