

## **Friends of Pine Grove Furnace Board Meeting**

*Minutes for May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

Board in attendance: A. Weltman (president), M. Soderberg (vice-president), B. Breen (treasurer), S. Breen, R. Shaw.

The Park Manager could not attend, but Sean informed Andre about current issues to mention.

### **Park Manager's comments (via Andre)**

- Site for the new playground near Fuller Lake is being prepped. The location is between Fuller Beach and the Brickyard Day Use Area, just south of the lake.
- Major project for 2015-2016, Mountain Creek Trail, is supported by the DCNR regional office.
- Staff are gaining familiarity with DCNR's new statewide computer system for reservations.
- New or expanded parking areas are being created, such as along Bendersville Lane near Mansion.

### **Treasurer's report**

- Our current balance is approximately \$13,000 (a detailed report is available upon request). This represents what's left after recent expenditures for the new playground.
- As previously discussed, we will now send \$1000 to support the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy's annual Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute summer camp at the Mansion.

### **Firewood**

- Thank you to 8 people including several Board members who volunteered May 9<sup>th</sup> to split logs at Fuller parking and stack wood in the campground shed. Also, special thanks to Bill and Sue who have been tireless in cutting and stacking firewood on a regular basis.

### **Woodsy Owl camping/volunteer weekend May 8-10**

- Woodsy Owl, a new event at this park involving free camping in exchange for a morning of volunteer work, was a great success. Volunteers performed a variety of tasks including repainting several Day Use pavilions. The Friends group supplied grillables during the potluck lunch. Next year an effort will be made to avoid scheduling this event on the same weekend as Mother's Day.

### **Merchandise**

- Still pending a design for an orange T-shirt with Hairy Hand/Pumpkin cartoon, to be sold at Fall Furnace Festival.
- We will look into getting some clothing in "tween" children's sizes. Right now we have merchandise for adults and some items for small children, but nothing in between.
- We received 300 pint glasses with a pine tree logo to use as racer awards during the Iron Run/Charcoal Challenge, and to sell at special events such as Fall Fest. Price set at \$7 each.
- When possible, Board members will set up sales tables on busy days near the Fuller Lake beach area. (Thank you to Bill and Sue for running a successful table on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.)
- Mary S. made a new insert for the clear plastic donation boxes, to highlight our major project the Mountain Creek Trail.

### **Promotional activities**

- Andre and Mary will appear on the "Good Day PA" segment of local TV channel 27 (ABC affiliate), at 12:30 on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Iron Run half marathon and Charcoal Challenge 5k run/walk (June 13) planning**

- We continue to prepare for our annual fundraiser races.
- Signups have been brisk so far ([www.runreg.com/5505](http://www.runreg.com/5505) and [www.runreg.com/5507](http://www.runreg.com/5507)), with more paid participants at this stage before the race compared to last year. Deadline for “early registration” and a guaranteed race shirt was May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- We appreciate our corporate sponsors, including “title sponsor” Appalachian Running Company in Carlisle, and half a dozen local companies including Giant Foods and Volvo Construction Equipment of Shippensburg.

### **Fall Fest (October 17-18) planning**

- A planning meeting was held April 12 – a special thank you to Margy our volunteer coordinator.
- Andre and Mary separately met with Lea (park Environmental Educator) to discuss special events during the festival such as historical demonstrators and invited organizations.
- We will again receive a silent auction donation from Whirlpool, a major contributor each year!
- Andre will talk to Cooke Township Supervisors about restarting the process of seeking voter approval to allow “Small Games of Chance.” Raffles, 50-50 drawings and similar “games” can be a major fundraiser for non-profit groups such as the Friends, but general permission must be given by voters in each jurisdiction (the “local option”) under a 1988 state law. The township in which our park is located has not previously done so because there were no non-profit charitable groups nor volunteer fire companies asking for it in the past. Under the best of circumstances, this would become a referendum on the November 2015 general ballot and if voters agree, we could offer “Small Games of Chance” for the first time during the 2016 Fall Fest.

### **Mountain Creek Trail project**

- Progress is being made. We would like to build a suspension bridge across Mountain Creek to reunite the two sections of the trail. Early discussions with trail and engineering experts indicate this style of bridge has several advantages, including ease of material transport to the site, is within our budget (with grant support), and moreover can be an aesthetically pleasing and unique attraction in its own right.
- Mary is leading the process of writing grants. We will submit synergistic requests to both the South Mountain Partnership and the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau for a total project of around \$42,000 dollars. How much will be paid by the Friends depends on whether we receive full or partial or no support from these two agencies. Grant applications must be submitted this summer, and award announcements are made around October-November. If successful, we hope bridge installation and other trail improvements can begin as soon as weather permits work in 2016.

### **Park Schedule**

- See following page for the schedule of park events through mid-June.

NEXT BOARD MEETING is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>

## **PINE GROVE FURNACE STATE PARK MAY- JUNE PROGRAMS**

### **Every Friday from May 8 to May 29: Hound Hike | 6:15 PM | Meet at Fuller Bath House**

Along the trail, hikers will have an opportunity to learn about dogs in the outdoors and how to keep your pet safe when hiking. During the program the dogs will be able to socialize and get quality exercise outdoors. Only one dog per hiker. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Dogs must be leashed and should be friendly with other dogs.

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### **Sunday, May 24: Virginia is For-EVER | 2:00 PM | AT Museum**

With 25% of the Appalachian Trail traversing the state of Virginia, it can be a long haul for hikers, but Shenandoah National Park, the Blue Ridge Mountains, high mountain meadows & spectacular wildflowers are all rewards of hiking the A.T. thru this diverse and magnificent state.

### **Saturday, May 30: Orienteering for Beginners | 2:00 PM | Meet at Fuller Bath House**

Try out a new sport: orienteering. Learn how to use a compass and map to make your way throughout the park to find orienteering markers. Loaner compasses will be available. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Orienteering is recommended for ages 8 and older and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Sunday, May 31: AT Museum Today and Tomorrow | 2:00 PM | AT Museum**

Volunteers have always been the 'heart and soul' of the Appalachian Trail, and the same is true of its museum. Come learn about the amazing volunteers who have worked to create the museum you see today, and those who are working today to complete the building restoration and exhibits.

### **Friday, June 5: Bat Count | 8:00 PM | Furnace Stack Pavilion**

Explore the secret nightlife of bats by going on a short walk to look for bats in the park. We will begin with a presentation at the Furnace Stack Pavilion, followed by a hike to search for the bats of Pine Grove Furnace. Listen and watch as we take a glimpse into the world of these amazing creatures. Bring a flashlight, wear sturdy shoes, and don't forget bug repellent.

### **Saturday, June 6: From Past to Present: Historic Walking Tour | 10:00 AM**

#### **Meet at Old Stone Furnace Stack**

Pine Grove Furnace was not always the scenic mountain getaway you see today. Take a walk through the past to discover the history of Pine Grove Furnace. Please wear sturdy shoes.

### **Sunday, June 7: Stories from the Trail | 2:00 PM | AT Museum**

Larry Luxenberg, president of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society, Author and Class of 1980 Thru Hiker will talk about his hike and the things he has done since he embarked on that life changing experience, when fewer people hiked and equipment was much less advanced.

### **Friday, June 12: Pennsylvania Snakes | 8:00 PM | Campground Amphitheater**

Don't let them fool you- snakes are important! Find out what species are in PA and how to ID a venomous species.

### **Saturday, June 13: Snake Hike | 1:00 PM | Meet at Furnace Stack**

Are there snakes at Pine Grove Furnace? Of course! After learning about snake habitats, we will go on a short walk to search for snakes.

### **Every Sunday after 5/25: Ironmasters Mansion Tour | 3:00pm | Ironmasters Mansion**

Memorial Day and every Sunday tours of the historic Ironmasters Mansion will be offered. Explore the beauty of the building and the fascinating stories of its history.