

THE



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

NEWS

July 2015

First Edition – Volume 1, #1

## PLANS FOR NEW FOOT BRIDGE ACROSS MOUNTAIN CREEK

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park are applying for grants to improve the Mountain Creek Trail and construct a foot bridge. The goal is to connect the two sections of the trail to make a thru trail between the two ends of the park.

Mountain Creek Trail is a fairly level trail that follows along Mountain Creek between Laurel and Fuller Lakes. The 1.72 mile trail is divided into two unconnected sections by Mountain Creek. During the dry summer months it is possible to ford the creek to hike the entire

length of the trail, but for most of the year, it is two trail sections each ending abruptly at the creek. Even though the trail connects the two primary recreation/day use areas of the park, the trail is underutilized and is in need of improvements. There are a number of large fallen trees and boggy areas that have old crossings that need to be replaced.

Ideally, we would like to build a suspension bridge, but what we ultimately decide to do will depend on the cost and our ability to raise sufficient funds.



The Mountain Creek Trail head near Laurel Lake.

### Our Board:

Andre Weltman, President  
Mary Soderberg, Vice-President  
William Breen, Treasurer  
Diane Velozo, Secretary  
Sue Breen  
Rob Shaw  
Donna Weiser  
Brett 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.*

Visit us online at:

[www.pinegrovefriends.org](http://www.pinegrovefriends.org)

Follow us on Facebook at:

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.*

## THIS YEAR'S UPDATES

Pine Grove Furnace State Park receives close to half a million visitors each year. That's a lot of activity for a park with less than 700 acres! The Park has increasingly turned to the *Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park* as a way to help maintain quality educational and recreational programs.



One of our primary goals is to raise money in support of the Park. In June we had our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Iron Race and raised \$5,000 (net of expenses) and we have already begun to plan for our annual Fall Furnace Fest in October.

In 2014, the Friends used their funds to help repair the 250 year

old furnace stack in the center of the park, purchased a children's playground for the campground, bought a firewood shed for the campground and purchased a sprayer for the staff's ongoing battle against barberry and other non-native invasive plants.

This year, the Friends purchased a playground for the Fuller Beach picnic area. Once funding is obtained for the Mountain Creek Trial, future plans include a playground in the Laurel Lake area.

In addition to fund raising, volunteers play an important role in supporting Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Last year, volunteers both individually and in groups contributed more than 3,500 hours of service to the Park. That equates to more than 93 weeks of donated work!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### State Parks and Forests Photo

**Contest:** The deadline to submit your photos is September 12. Check out the contest information at: <http://paparksandforests.org/>

### National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 26:

Volunteers help with maintenance projects in the park.

### Fall Furnace Fest, October 17-18:

Join us for a 2-day family oriented event with live music, craft & food vendors, and hay wagon rides.

## Annual Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Your membership helps us to ensure that Pine Grove Furnace State Park continues to be one of the best parks in Pennsylvania. The cost of an individual membership is \$10; a family membership is only \$15 for a year.

### **Mail membership form and payment to:**

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

*Make checks payable to PFFF (PA Parks and Forest Foundation) and write "FOPGF" on the memo line.*