

November 2015

GRANT AWARDED TO IMPROVE MOUNTAIN CREEK TRAIL

The Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau announced on November 4 that the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park has been awarded a grant of \$21,730 to cover a portion of the costs to improve the Mountain Creek Trail and build a fifty-foot bridge across the stream. Once completed, the 1.72 mile trail will provide an easy hike between the Laurel Lake and Fuller Lake areas of the park.

The Mountain Creek Trail Project was one of 16 grants funded by the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation.

The first step will be to clear away a number of large fallen trees and

replace old crossings over boggy areas on the trail. We will need volunteers for much of the work, so stay tuned!

The Friends group will work closely with the new park manager to finalize plans before beginning trail improvements next spring.

At the same event, it was announced that Pine Grove Furnace State Park was voted as the **2016 Best in the Valley for Outdoor Attraction** by the Cumberland County Visitors Bureau. Each year, residents, visitors and businesses vote for the best attractions in the county.



Friends chairman Andre Weltman holds a giant check from the Cumberland Valley Visitor's Bureau after their local tourism conference held at beautiful Linwood Estate, at the foot of the South Mountains not far from our park.

Our Board:

Andre Weltman, Chair
 Mary Soderberg, Vice-Chair
 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

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.

FALL UPDATES

New Park Manager: It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Sean Benson and his family. Sean will be the Assistant Park Manager at Pymatuning State Park in the northwestern part of the state. Pymatuning is home to Sean; he grew up fishing and hunting in the area. We wish Sean the best.

We have just learned that Joe Basil will be replacing Sean at the end of November. Joe is currently the assistant operations manager of Hill's Creek State Park. Please join us in welcoming Joe to the park!

Fall Furnace Fest: In spite of the unseasonably cold weather, more than 6,300 people turned out for the 7th Annual Fall Furnace Fest. Cindy Dunn, Secretary of DCNR, led the pumpkin parade from the Furnace Stack pavilion to Fuller Lake for the traditional pumpkin

float and the legend of the Hairy Hand.

Volunteers: It was a record year for volunteer involvement in the park. During the twelve month season ending on September 1, volunteers clocked in more than 6,000 hours of service to the park. That equates to more than 160 weeks of donated work!

Firewood: Meanwhile, volunteers kept in shape splitting firewood to sell to campers in the park. We

raised more than \$7,000 from firewood sales this year. All sales proceeds stay at the park.

New Play Area: You may have noticed the new playground and swing set installed this summer between Fuller Lake beach and the Brickyard restroom building. This second playground at Pine Grove Furnace was purchased by the Friends in 2015 and installed by park staff. A third playground near Laurel Lake is in our long-range plans.



UPCOMING 2016 EVENTS

Earth Day – April 23: Volunteers will begin work on Mountain Creek Trail improvements and other tasks to get the park ready for the season.

Woodsy Owl Weekend – May 14: Two days of camping in exchange for one morning of volunteering in the park. A fun family weekend!

6th Annual Iron Race - June 11: A half-marathon trail race and a 5k race to raise funds for projects supported by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace. Participate as a volunteer or as a runner! Registration will be available in February 2016 at www.RunReg.com.

2016 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 all of 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

Please make checks payable to "PFFF" (the PA Parks and Forests Foundation) and write "FOPGF" on the memo line to make sure the check is credited to the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park.