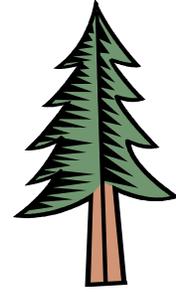


MFA NEWS

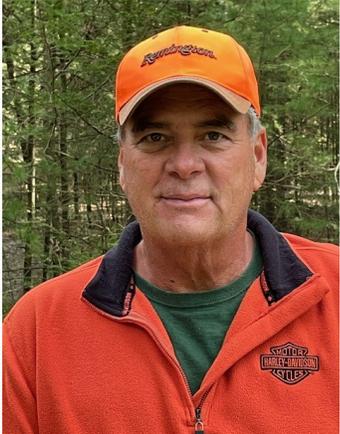


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHAUX FOREST
ASSOCIATION

Editor: Judy Prescott
Web Master: Deb Rosevear

Fall 2021

www.michauxforestassociation.com



President's Column
Lyle Herr

Happy Fall y'all! What a great season in the Michaux Forest... the leaves are changing colors, the air is clean and crisp and cabin owners are building up their woodpiles for the Winter.

The MFA had a booth at this year's Pine Grove Furnace Fall Festival, and despite some rain on Saturday it was a big success. We gave away 2 dozen trees, welcomed 6 new members and were able to make a \$500 donation to the MFA general fund!

Thanks to all the members that stopped by to say hi and a special thanks to Hellers Gas and Members 1st bank for donating items to give to our members!

In August we joined forces with cabin owners from the Caledonia area, the Pennsylvania Cabin Owners Association and representatives from DCNR to address mutual concerns about issues surrounding campsite lease regulations and their enforcement. This task force will meet monthly and is committed to accomplishing DCNR's goals while providing fair, reasonable and consistent guidelines to our cabin owners. We encourage all members to be responsible stewards of the opportunity we have been given to enjoy these beautiful state parks and forests.

Your Michaux Forest Association now has a page on Facebook! Search MFA and stay informed about events happening throughout the forest and the Association. We are currently working on a "members only" link to our Facebook page that would allow cabin owners to exchange posts with oth-

er members about services, events or even items for sale. Like our Facebook page and get involved!

We want to encourage our members to educate themselves on invasive species that have been directly impacting the Michaux State Forest. DCNR has information on-line about a variety of plants, animals and insects that are harmful to our forests and things you can do to help.

Mark your calendars now!!! On Saturday, June 25, 2022, the Michaux Forest Association will be celebrating our 75th annual general membership meeting with a party at the Furnace Pavilion. We will have live music, games and prizes followed by a picnic and business meeting. Check our Facebook page for more details coming soon!

**Join the MFA Facebook
page for news
and updates!**





Greetings!

October is ending and Fall is in the air! Woo hoo! Perhaps I am becoming less tolerant with age, but I am not the least bit upset that the hot summer is coming to a close. In addition to the redundant 90 degree + days, my inspections seemed plagued by swarming bees, biting ticks, attacking chigger mites, and excessive cobwebs to my face. But the far worse nuisance, was the relentless and annoying gnats! In my 20 plus years of making my rounds, I never recall being so agitated and frustrated by the little pests. I hate complaining about such insignificant issues in our troubled world but just felt the need to vent a bit. Sorry, but as I stated earlier, I guess I am just showing my age.

Enough of my whining, and on to my report. Fortunately, nothing significant to report

from the vandalism side of my inspections. Mother nature, as always, was a different story. Thunderstorms and hurricane remnants came through on several occasions and took their toll on numerous trees. There was a small degree of flash flooding as well. In some circumstances, unfortunately, the snapped or uprooted trees did substantial damages to a few cabins and outbuildings. I know from personal experiences at my cabin how frustrating it is to have this happen. However, I view it as relatively small price to pay to be blessed to have these wonderful campsites in the beautiful Michaux forest. I always dread when I have to make the call to owners and break the bad news to any of you.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding my duties, please call or text (717-226-4959) and leave a message. I will return your call as promptly as possible if you request me to do such. Best wishes for a happy and safe Fall/Winter season.

Litter Patrol Report
by
Diane and Bob Shenk

On September 25th, we completed our final litter pick up for 2021. This was the 28th year for the MFA to participate in the program. Thanks to all the volunteers through the years who have helped make this program a success. Special thanks to those who volunteered this year: Patti and Jim Deppen, Linda and Tom Reidenbaugh, Judy and Lyle Herr, Bennie Keck, Mary Soderberg, and Mike Rish

We look forward to continuing the program in 2022 with dates to be announced early next year.



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No Job Too Small

Life at the Cabin
In the 1960's
By Mike Emanuel

My parents, Jack and Helen Emanuel, built our cabin from 1955-1960. Dad was the builder, while Mom was the painter. Jack acquired the cabin from "Bill on the Hill" for \$25 and moved the logs to our leased site off Murphy Road. Old Bill's cabin was on the hill behind the present day bathhouse near the parking lot at Fuller Lake. My brothers and I spent our summers enjoying the cabin and surrounding area.

Our grandmother would take me and my brother Bill to the cabin during the summer months, where we spent considerable time exploring the surrounding creeks, trails, and woods.

Mornings were spent playing with our GI-Joes or matchbox cars and helping our grandmother shred sheets for the making of braided rugs or dragging fallen trees for her to cut up for firewood on those cool mornings and evenings. After lunch on the



front porch, we had the afternoon free to go exploring. Where to go first? Many times we would go to get a refreshing drink at Bubbling Springs. Bubbling Springs Cabin had a merry-go-round with a bicycle on top that we would pedal. Round and round we would go until we fell off. To get there, we would take the trail we built behind our cabin that led out to Murphy Road between Uncle Tom's and Mr. Entline's cabins. (Who Uncle Tom was we do not know.) We then ran between the cabins to the Boy Scout Camp and on to what we called the Root Path to Bubbling Springs.

Once we had our fill of fresh mountain water we continued on our way down the root path, being careful to step on just the large pine tree roots on the surface of the trail. This trail led us to the Twin Bridges Trail, named after two wooden bridges that the Boy Scouts built, and came out near the old schoolhouse. Sometimes we would crawl under the bridge crossing Mountain Creek by Bubbling Springs Cabin and listen for cars rumbling over the wooden planks. Fine dust would filter through the cracks overhead. Tiring of this we ran down to Fuller Lake and went for a swim but first jumped in Mountain Creek. There was a wooden platform in the creek we would sit on before running through the beach into Fuller Lake. The water then felt like bath water. The concessions stand was in a log building, and I could hardly reach the countertop to look at all the plastic boats and several types of ice cream. The man who ran the stand always said to me "Here you are again in your bare feet, don't you ever wear shoes"? The United States flag was displayed high up a white pole between the

concession stand and the second bridge.

After drying off we climbed "Bill on the Hill" to slide down the steep hillside almost landing into the creek. During the summer this was a dusty ride. We made sure we washed off before heading back to the cabin. Our walk back was part way up Snaky Road till we came to the old canal. We crossed over the "high road," a huge log over the canal. We arrived safe and sound back at the cabin.

Inside the cabin we boys would climb the logs up to the second floor or use the rope swing hanging from a log rafter. Sometimes we push off from a built-in bed and swing out to touch the dining room table.

Evenings were spent playing Canasta or Pinnacle on the front porch. Exactly at 8:45 the Whip-poor-wills would start their chirping and at 9:00 sharp the juke box at the store would crank up. Our grandmother would have given us money earlier in the evening to go to the store. A tough decision awaited us: which way to go to the store. We ran most of the way there only stopping at Mountain Creek by Whispering Pines Cabin to throw rocks in the creek. Once at the store we looked at what ice cream we wanted, a creamsicle or an ice cream sandwich. We finished off our ice cream sitting at a huge tree root across from the store near the top of the iron furnace. Taking the black charcoal trail down along the edge of the furnace, we ran around the inside of the furnace before heading back to the cabin.

Sunday afternoons and Monday mornings were exciting!

Continued on page 7

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**Friends of
Pine Grove Furnace
State Park**
*By Mary Soderberg,
Vice-Chair*

Right up until a few weeks before Fall Furnace Fest, we were very unsure whether COVID concerns would allow us to hold the festival this year, but it all came together in the end. Saturday was so rainy and miserable that Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear were not allowed to come out and get their fur and feathers wet! But the sun came out just in time for the Pumpkin Parade led by Claire Jantz, chair of the Friends of the Michaux Forest. Sunday was beautiful and more than made up for the rainy Saturday.

After a year and a half of limited events, it was fun catching up with other cabin owners at the Michaux Forest Association's booth at Fall Fest. The MFA offered a number of giveaways to cabin owners, but mainly the booth provided a place to sit and chat with our cabin

neighbors!

This year has been a replenishment year for the Friends. After completing two large projects in 2020 - paving the new entrance to the Family Campground and installing the bridge connecting the Koppenhaver Trail to Mountain Creek Trail - we have focused on several smaller projects and restoring our fund balance. As many of you know, one of the ways that we raise funds is through the sale of firewood. We have a strong group of volunteers who help us cut and stack wood, many of them are cabin owners. During the hot summer weeks, a local landscape company supplements our efforts by delivering and stacking wood for us. In 2020, we sold more than \$20,000 in firewood at the campground. Not only is this a service to the campers, but it is a way of preventing foreign insects and tree diseases from being brought into the park. The campground has continued to be very busy in 2021, and we anticipate healthy firewood sales again this year.

This summer, we installed trail counters at Pole Steeple and at the new bridge to better understand

how the park is used. Since July 1, 2021, when we first started counting, more than 9,500 people have hiked the Pole Steeple Trail and more than 7,700 people have used the new bridge. That is a lot of footsteps in a four-month period! Clearly, Pine Grove Furnace continues to be a popular outdoor escape for many.

To help tell the park's history, we have been working with DCNR to create replacement and new information kiosks for the Furnace Stack area, the former Girl Scout Camp and the original Pine Grove Park area by the Koppenhaver Trail. For the bicyclists in the park, we recently purchased a bike repair station which the park staff will be installing for us.

As always, many thanks to the members of the Michaux Forest Association for the donations and volunteer efforts that you provide to both the Friends and Pine Grove Furnace State Park!

**2022 with the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace
State Park**

pinegrovefriends.org and [Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park | Facebook](#)

First Day Hike, January 1, 2022: Start the new year with a hike in Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Please check in at the DNCR event page or our Facebook page in late December for this year's plans.

Earth Day, April 23: Celebrate Earth Day with a morning of volunteering and giving back to the park.

Iron Run and Charcoal Challenge, June 11: The annual Friends fundraiser trail races are scheduled for June 11, 2022. Watch for more details regarding online registration for the 5K and half marathon races.

Fall Furnace Fest, October 15 and 16: 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.



What's Cooking in
Cooke Township
By
Andre Weltman



As a reminder, Cooke Township ordinances, resolutions and other information are available on the Township's website www.cooketwp.org. Questions may also be emailed to cocketwp@kuhncom.net.

Please feel free to attend Township Board of Supervisors meetings, usually held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the Township building, 1700 Centerville Road. Your attendance and participation are always welcome. Before dropping by, check for schedule changes on our website or on the bulletin board next to the front door.

Alarm Ordinance

Earlier this year, Cooke Township Supervisors passed an ordinance concerning false alarms from homes, businesses and other establishments. Alarms systems that repeatedly send out false signals can pose a significant burden upon emergency responders and are a nuisance that disrupts the peace and tranquility of the Township. Ordinance 2021-1 establishes penalties for repeated false alarms, after allowing for two such instances annually with only a warning. Multiple alarms within 12

hours before the system can be deactivated will be considered a single false alarm. In this context, an "alarm" indicates an urgent problem to which police, fire or emergency medical personnel are expected to respond. It therefore does not apply to septic tank systems. You can read this and other ordinances by clicking on the Documents tab on our website.

New PA Law for Township Meetings

In July, Pennsylvania passed a new requirement that elected officials post public meeting agendas online at least 24 hours in advance of the meetings taking place. This update to the state's "Sunshine Law" is intended to give the public adequate notice about issues on which local leaders might take official action. Though this law seeks to increase government accountability and citizen participation, it also makes it more awkward for our Township Supervisors to address your concerns in a timely manner. If a new issue is brought to our attention but is not on the agenda, action may need to be delayed until the following month's meeting. If you are considering attending a monthly Township meeting to discuss an issue, if at all possible please let us know at least a full week in advance so that the topic can be included on the agenda. The monthly agenda will be posted on our website and outside the Township building front door at 1700 Centerville Road, Newville PA 17241 (along Route 233, three miles north from the State Park Office).

BRIEF TIDBITS

- **New look for our website:** Cooke Township's website has a new look but the same web-link: www.cooketwp.org.
- **Fire bans signs:** On those rare occasions that emergency fire

bans are required in Cooke, we try to notify everyone as best we can. Please be aware that there could be signs along the roads entering the Township announcing that open fires are not permitted. We also have an (incomplete) list of cabin owner emails. If you would like to receive notifications, please send your name, cabin address and email address to cocketwp@kuhncom.net. We will not share our email list with anyone nor send you "spam"!

Construction Permits

Please remember that building permits are required in Cooke Township. In many instances work will also invoke the State-mandated Uniform Construction Code inspection process. Don't start any building work unless you have checked with the Township directly. This applies to all properties, including those overseen by the State Park or State Forest, and applies even to cabins that have been granted an exemption from construction inspections under the UCC-13 process as allowed by the PA Department of Labor & Industry (see our comments in the Spring 2019 MFA newsletter). Don't assume your contractor has taken care of this legal requirement – it is your responsibility to follow the law. Failure to comply can result in stop-work orders and fines.

Communicating with Cook Township

Our tiny rural Township is staffed by part-timers. We do not have regular office hours, and are open by appointment

Continued on page 7

**What's Cooking in Cooke
Issues Around
the Neighborhood
continued**

only. The best way to reach Cooke Township is by email at cooketwp@kuhncom.net or less efficiently, leave a voice message at 717-486-8114. When leaving emails or voicemails, always please tell us if you are a seasonal cabin owner (and specify State Park vs. State Forest), and provide your Cooke address as well as relevant contact info to return your message. This will help us respond correctly and will reduce extra back-and-forth communications.

**Life at the Cabin
in the 1960's
continued**

Campers were gone for the week. Off we would run to the campground and Boy Scout camp looking for anything the campers left behind. We spent hours digging out tent pegs and had quite a collection. An old army surplus bag still contains our precious tent pegs. If we found a quarter we were in heaven!

We frequently drove to a sawdust pit near Lewis Rocks to gather turtle eggs and bury them near the outhouse at the cabin. Once at the pit we had to check for rattlesnakes as they liked to munch on the eggs. One summer we caught box turtles and constructed a pen for them. We had several turtles captured but by morning they all escaped. Maybe Grandma let them free?

On Sunday, the church bells would ring and off we would go to Sunday school. The pavilion next to the church was where many youngsters had Sunday school. Old canvas curtains partitioned off the different age groups. Coloring and crafts were a favorite pastime.

Every so often we went canoeing on Laurel Lake. In those days we could paddle right up to the dam and the front of the canoe would sit on the top edge of the dam. We kept yelling no, we are going over! But our father never listened to us. I vaguely remember the dam was constructed of logs.

If we happened to be at the cabin over the Fourth of July, a necessary trip was to Hammonds Rocks to see the Carlisle fireworks. A climb up a section of an old metal fire tower ladder made good viewing of the fireworks. On our drive home we avoided the many rattlesnakes that lay on Ridge Road soaking up the last warmth of the day.

We received mail at our mailbox outside the store, letters from our mom and the weekly Jack and Jill magazine.

We mostly slept in the back room on an old surplus Army bunk bed. Or when the summer nights were extremely hot, we would drag the old dusty mattresses out to the front porch where it was cooler.

Sure was fun growing up at the cabin!



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