



MFA NEWS

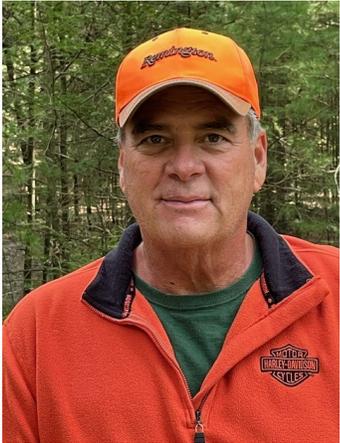


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHAUX FOREST
ASSOCIATION

Editor: Judy Prescott
Web Master: Deb Rosevear

Spring 2022

www.michauxforestassociation.com



President's Column
Lyle Herr

Spring is here and your MFA is already hard at work with projects designed to help the forest and the park and get our members involved! Last month we started our Mountain Creek project where we will be improving and maintaining the banks of the creek between the bridge at the entrance to Fuller Lake and the bridge at the entrance to the Fuller Lake beach. With help from our members, we have been planting native plants, removing invasive plants and cleaning up

debris long the creek.

Later this month we will be building and selling Screech Owl and bee nesting boxes for use in the forest. Special discounts for MFA members! We will also be partnering with DCNR to track bird sightings to help determine how healthy area habitats are and we are excited to be offering MFA T-shirts available for sale at the end of April!

Checkout our MFA Facebook page and Members Only Facebook page for more details and take part in our monthly photo cover page contest. Members vote for their favorite picture taken in the forest/park that month and the winning picture is the Facebook cover page for the following month.

The MFA is well represented on the DCNR task force which is revising leased campsite conditions and regulations throughout the Commonwealth. This has been a great opportunity to represent our members and other cabins owners and we appreciate District Forester Roy Brubaker's invitation to be part of this process. As lessees, we need to be responsible stewards of our campsites and the surrounding

forest. Educate yourselves on what you can and cannot do on your leased lot and contact DCNR directly with any questions you have.

Mark your calendars now for the celebration of our 75th annual General Membership Meeting and picnic on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at the furnace pavilion in the park. We will have live music, prize auctions and cornhole games for all. John Taucher from DCNR will be speaking on efforts to bring the Bob White Quail back to the Michaux. Please note that this meeting will be open to all cabin owners and there will be an opportunity to provide input into the leased campsite regulations review process at this time.

We have a lot of exciting activities coming up over the next few months but it doesn't work without help from our members! Please checkout our Facebook site or contact us at Duran-gopo@hotmail.com for more information and see how you can get involved!

**MFA Annual Picnic June 25
Furnace Pavilion**

Come join in the 75th Year Anniversary Celebration
Music and games 4-5 pm Picnic at 5 pm Meeting at 5:30

Special Speaker John Taucher on Bob White Qual Project
Drinks, hamburgers and hotdogs provided. Please bring a potluck dish. Invite a neighbor. Join the fun!





Greetings!

I hope you all had wonderful winter season and are looking forward to visiting your camp sites, turning on the water, doing your spring cleaning and embracing the mountain wonders for another year of summer adventures. I know I am!

While the past few months have been chilly, winter really did not wreak the havoc that it sometimes can in "in our neck of the woods." As always, several uprooted trees and fallen branches created some issues, but for the most part our cabins were spared from any serious damages. Met-Ed is currently trimming trees along all power lines in hopes of lessening the amount of power outages we may experience with the coming summer storms. (Although, isn't it nice to sit in the candlelight of a summer evening listening only to the sounds of mother-nature?)

I am also happy to report that I found no blatant acts of vandalism this winter. Unfortunately, this can change quickly with increased activity that the warm weather brings. When I mention increased activity, I am of course referencing both man and animal. So, remember to keep doors and windows secured when leaving your cabins, as well as bird-feeders safely hung and grills cleaned!

I am always glad when I don't have much news to report. It may make my article a little dry, but better than having to report damages from fire and winds and unruly intruders.

Please continue to call me with any concerns with problems that you might see, as it really helps with my inspections for all our MFA neighbors. I can be reached at (717)226-4959 and please leave a message. I will respond as soon as I can if you should request. Take care and I wish you all safe travels in all you do!



Litter Patrol Dates
by
Diane and Bob Shenk

April 23
June 25
August 13
September 24

If you are interested in participating on any of these dates please email dlshenk@comcast.net.

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No Job Too Small

THE CABIN BOOK
SHELF

Book reviewed by
Martin Yespy

*Arriving Today**
by Christopher Mims

Cabin owners traveling to Pine Grove on I 81 can't help but notice the proliferation of warehouses from Lebanon County to the Maryland line. In fact, it has been noted that this corridor has one of the highest concentrations of warehouses in the country and all this is related to the supply chain industry. (Be glad all this is way down the mountain from Pine Grove.)

Among the many issues confronting society during the pandemic are supply chain disruptions which resulted in shortages of so many items. At the same time, we continue to shop in person and online spending records amounts of money. Christopher Mims' book, *Arriving Today*, is a fascinating account of this 21st century model of global commerce and the related logistics that make it all possible. Mims describes the global supply chain and how convoluted it has become. Henry Ford's old system of raw materials in, finished products out no longer applies. Instead, all products have components or processes from many other countries and sources. For example, cod caught off Scotland are shipped to China for processing only to be shipped back to Scotland for sale. And today's smart phones are assembled mostly in Asia using over 300 components shipped in from all over the world.

Mims starts his saga at a factory in Vietnam which man-

ufactures USB chargers (most electronic devices come from Asian countries). He tracks the USB charger from the factory, onto a barge, to a port where it is put into one of those huge, standardized shipping containers and loaded onto a freighter for the long ocean crossing to the port of Long Beach. From there the container and the charger are offloaded by enormous cranes onto a truck and driven to a Minnesota fulfillment center. There everything is further sorted, boxed, labeled, and stored with millions of other items until someone orders the charger. Then it is routed to other shipping warehouses, and eventually delivered to its destination by one of the big home-delivery companies.

Everything about this story is huge and complex. For instance, the massive size of freighters and the number of containers they can carry, the sheer size of ports and cranes, the number of trucks on the road ferrying steel containers, the enormous size and proliferation of fulfillment warehouses, the 100 billion packages shipped every year, and the complexity of the algorithms/metrics, conveyor systems, robots, other automation systems, and AI applications that keep the whole supply chain system running efficiently.

Mims describes all this in great detail including the history of scientific management and a review of the many engineers, scientists, and entrepreneurs who developed these ingenious systems. Mims also describes the demands of the entire process for all involved because every phase of the journey from manufacturing, shipping, unloading, trucking, sorting at the fulfillment center and final delivery is timed to the minute and one setback in the chain of predictability can have a cascading effect on the whole supply network (This is part

of the reason we have been experiencing shortages and delays.)

Mims devotes a good portion of the story to Amazon and Jeff Bezos and the entire fulfillment center operation with its miles of automated conveyor systems, robots, and human workers whose every movement is monitored to ensure compliance with exacting performance standards. In the end Mims reminds us that today's impressive supply chain system with its emphasis on fast delivery will only expand in the years ahead.

So, this summer as you go about doing chores at the cabin using materials you purchased online or at the store, think of the long journey these items completed until they arrived in your hands at Pine Grove.

Citation: Mims, Christopher.
Arriving Today, New York, NY, HarperCollins, 2021

FIRE STORY
By Diane Shenk

It's always a great day when we pack for the cabin – all the things we need or might need are in the truck. The chain saw is always there because it seems like in the last few years the trees along the access road have taken turns deciding to topple onto our power and phone lines.

It was cold and unbelievable windy the day after Thanksgiving. When we arrived we built a fire in the fireplace, started the heater, and started to clean. And not surprisingly, the power went off. The problem could have been anywhere, but I walked out and looked at the lane. I saw a lot of smoke, and then the fire.

Continued on page 4

Fire Story continued

My parents bought our cabin from my aunt in 1962, and this was my first time calling 911. It was difficult to describe a “small forest fire” to the operator. Were we trapped? Not really-we could run in a lot of directions. But was the forest and our cabin in danger? Yes.

In what seemed like an incredibly short time the Penn Township Volunteer Fire Company arrived. They controlled the fire while the power line was “hot”, and then stayed until the electric company arrived.

We often forget about these all-volunteer fire companies until we need them. I talked to Fire Chief Doug Stum, and he said that Penn Township is “first due” for all of Cooke Township. He gave me the following information to make my donation: Penn Township Volunteer Fire Dept.
1750 Pine Road
Newville, PA. 17241

Please consider supporting this vital service!

Important Notice Camp Lease Public Input

Camp Lease Task Force informational meeting Sunday, June 26 from 1-3 pm at the Irons Stack Pavilion in Pine Grove State Park.



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Membership Reminder

Current membership year ends December 31, 2022. Dues for the 2023 are due PRIOR to December 31, 2022. Look for the membership flyer in the Fall newsletter or download from www.michauxforestassociation.com

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

Clearly, the Pandemic generated increased usage in the park, but we wanted to better understand the impact on our trails. Last summer, the Friends installed trail counters at Pole Steeple and at the bridge between the Koppenhaver Trail and Mountain Creek Trail. Since we have no idea if folks crossed the bridge back and forth or only crossed one-way, we counted every "crossing". For Pole Steeple, we made the assumption that if you went up you would return the same way, so we divided the total count in half. The use of the bridge exceeded our expectations! From July 1 to December 31 of 2022, there were 20,745 crossings of the bridge, or an average of 3,457 per month! Meanwhile, the Pole Steeple Trail had in excess of 14,240 visitors during the six-month period! We plan to keep the counters in place through the end of June to obtain a full year

of data.

After a two-year hiatus we will once again be hosting our Iron Run half-marathon and Charcoal Challenge 5K run/walk. This year the race is being hosted by both the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace and the Appalachian Trail Museum. Consider participating in the race as a fun way to contribute to the park. The race takes you through the woods and over the hills of both the park and into the Michaux Forest!! You can sign up for the half-marathon at www.runreg.com/10678 or the 5K at www.runreg.com/10677. If you want to volunteer, contact Diane Velozo at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com.

The Friends continue to maintain trails, plant trees, remove invasive species and support educational programming. We have no big projects this year, but there are a number of small projects that you should keep your eyes open for:

-This winter, the Friends purchased a replacement sign for the south side of the Ironmaster Mansion.

-For those of you who spent your summers at Pine Grove during the fifties and sixties, you probably have memories of summertime treats purchased at the small log

cabin at the end of Fuller Field – orange creamsicles were a common favorite! In recent years, the building has been used for storage and as the center of operations for the charcoal making demonstration during Fall Fest. A local scout has volunteered to make the repairs to the log building for his Eagle Scout project in April. The Friends are assisting in the effort.

- Later this spring, park staff are installing a bicycle repair station purchased by the Friends near the front of the General Store.

-To help tell the park's history, Andre Waltman has been working with the park staff to create historical information waysides for the park. Two of them will be installed this spring by park staff, one on the edge of what used to be the Old Ore Hole (now called Fuller Lake) and one by the Furnace Stack. In both cases, you will be able to look through the outline of an old photograph to compare how the site looked in the 1800's to how it looks today. Later this year, DCNR is expected to finalize new information waysides for the former Girl Scout Camp and the original Pine Grove Park area along the Koppenhaver Trail.

-Later this year, we will be replacing the small bridge near the halfway point of the Koppenhaver Trail using two telephone poles donated by First Energy.

-The Friends will once again be purchasing hanging flower baskets for the office porch.

Finally, we are selling handmade coffee mugs that would be perfect in your cabin. Stop in the Park Office and check them out!

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](http://2022withtheFriendsOfPineGroveFurnaceStatePark.pinegrovefriends.org)
pinegrovefriends.org and [Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPineGroveFurnaceStatePark/)

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: Online registration is available at www.runreg.com. Register by May 18 for Early Bird Pricing and to guarantee a race shirt.

Woodsy Owl, June 25: Join us for a morning of volunteering in the park.

Public Lands Day, September 24: Join us for a morning of volunteering in the park.

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.

**The Need to Adjust
With
The Times
By
Nate Yocum
Forester, DCNR**

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When I began my career here in the Michaux going on now 3 years ago, I knew of some of the rich history of this particular state forest. What I didn't know, but I'm beginning to realize more and more as time goes on, is that our cabin program is in many ways equally as historic as the state forest itself. Many of you know the history of iron mining and charcoal hearths in this area. Some of the cabins that exist today up in the Pine Grove Furnace area are suspected (but I cannot confirm) to be leftover shelters that iron miners utilized while utilizing the charcoal-fired iron furnace the state park is named after, which dates all the way back to the mid-to-late 1800's, shortly after the Civil War. Taking this into account, it's easy to be enamored by the rich history within our own leased campsite community.

Our paper leased campsite filing cabinets at our office are pretty much museums in themselves. As a person that is very interested in the World War II era, when I get the opportunity I will often look back through the files in an attempt to find references to that period of time. I'm interested in reading about our past cabin owners' experiences in the Prohibition, Great Depression, or World War 2. There are plenty of type-written pages from close to hundreds of years ago, and I find it very interesting to "hop into the shoes" of the cabin owners at that point in time. By reading, you can feel their emotions through their language and tone. My findings have been limited, although I haven't delved through even a quarter of them, but I have found plenty of references like "money

being tight" in the 1930's, for example. Today, we know the world was deep into the Great Depression at that point in time, but they had no idea in that moment what was happening besides the fact that work was scarce and providing for their families were difficult.

I can't explain why, but I find it fascinating to read correspondence from specific periods of time which we can look back on as the "calm before the storm" prior to important historic events. For example, I have read letters from the late 1930's talking about how peaceful and happy their lives were in that moment. Little did they know, the political situation in Germany was turning darker and darker, effectively laying the foundation for what would later become World War II, inevitably forcing a lot of parents to send their sons off to war, some to never return. Likewise with letters I read from August or September 2001, as they had no idea at that point in time that terroristic plans were well underway, including hijacking commercial airplanes and attacking the Twin Towers of New York. This would happen mere weeks or days after the email or letter was written. I find all that so fascinating. Someday, a young person in my current position will be fascinated by looking back through my correspondence to you all during the COVID-19 pandemic, wondering what it was like to be living in that period of time.

It's important to respect the history of these leased campsites. Many of you may or may not know the first cabin (1-C-001, which still exists to this day) was built in 1914, and many more followed in the following years of the late 1910's to early 1920's. Out of curiosity, I looked up some events that were occurring in the world, being printed in the daily news, and like-

ly being gossiped about as the first cabins were being built.

Many American chestnut trees still existed in Pennsylvania's forests, albeit unhealthy, stricken with the chestnut blight, which had been unleashed in North America and discovered just ten years prior. Still, our first cabin owners could quite easily find the massive, living American chestnuts that we can only see in pictures today.

The world was still in a state of shock, as the Titanic, equipped with many modern (at that time) safety components, and thus thought to be "unsinkable" was indeed sunk after hitting an iceberg just two years prior to the first cabin being built in the Michaux. At this point in time, it was believed to be the deadliest shipwreck in history.

Jim Thorpe, regarded as many as the greatest athlete in history, was fresh off a successful football career at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The team went 12-1-1 in 1912, as they were coached by Pop Warner and Thorpe being the star running back. The season included a 27-6 win over Army of West Point, which included future U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The first commercial air flight took place in Florida, transporting passengers from St. Petersburg to Tampa Bay on January 1st, 1914.

Only about 8,000 cars were on the road in the mid 1910's, as they were at that point considered a luxury, elitist purchase. In this area, the main method of transport was still

Continued on page 7

The Need to Adjust With The Times continued.

horseback/mules and many cities/rural areas still had a speed limit of 12 MPH.

In April 1914, around the time our first cabin (1-C-001) was being built, George Herman Ruth, an 18-year old baseball pitcher had signed a \$100 per month contract to play for the Baltimore Orioles, who were managed and owned by Jack Dunn at the time. Because of his young age, many referred to him as "Dunnie's Babe", which by many accounts was the origin of the "Babe" Ruth nickname.

A mysterious flu-like disease began to strike the interest of doctors and scientists in Kansas. Soon, it was spreading across the country, and as Americans joined World War I, spread across Europe as well. We now refer to this as the Spanish flu pandemic. 25-50 million people would eventually succumb to this disease.

Women could not legally vote until 6 years into the program.

Now, many of you may be asking at this point "where are you going with this?" Well, for one, I thought you all would find what was going through the minds of our "founding cabin owners" when these cabins were being originally built. For some of you, those people were your ancestors, and the cabins have been passed down through several generations. But, moreover, the point I'm trying to make is the world has changed tremendously since the leased cabin program was created. Yet, we can find many structures and objects at the leased campsites today remaining from the early days of this program. We tend to simply leave them to remain because, well, they've been there long before we all were even born. Many of the guidelines used today are based strongly off of or even

remain the same as the guidelines enacted in the early days of this program. This leads to many issues administratively on a regular basis.

Science and research on environmental impacts evolve more and more every day. So, should we blame previous cabin owners for making improvements on their lease when they didn't know any better? To throw out some examples, septic and sewage infrastructure, asphalt/concrete driveways, landscaping, planting of non-native invasive shrubs or trees on the lease, and so on. On the other hand, should we blame the previous administrators for allowing such improvements when they in all likelihood had no idea how big of a deal some of these issues were? I hardly think so, to either, but I'll leave that opinion to you all.

However, with current environmental research and scientific advancements, now we all *do know better*. So, do any of us get a free pass when it comes to these issues just because "it was here when we bought it" or "I didn't do this, so why am I having to deal with it?", or, on my end, "I wasn't the one that approved this...why should I have to deal with it?". Again, I don't believe so.

The leased cabin program is a small part of the big state forestland picture. The Michaux is

a place for the public to "escape" into nature and enjoy getting time away from the "hustle and bustle" of urban areas. It's easy to imagine the disappointment when an urban or suburban individual gets to the state forest and find asphalt driveways, trash dumping, water pollution, or invasive species that have been manually planted. It's an even harder pill to swallow when imagining the environmental impact our leased campsites are having on the same lands we are promising to protect. It's truly on all of us to do our part in protecting these lands as best as we know how, leaving them better than when we found them. This takes teamwork between myself and all of you. I look forward to establishing this in the coming years.

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