

DECEMBER 2019

GROWTH RINGS

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area News



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Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area is dedicated to the promotion of Forest Heritage within out 18 counties. Click the image below to visit our website for more information.



Historic Preservation Microloan Fund Announcement from PAWV

In late November, the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia announced a new Microloan Program. The Historic Preservation Microloan Program was created to preserve West Virginia's architectural heritage and stimulate community revitalization through advocacy, lending, technical assistance, and development in historic areas in the state of West Virginia.

Danielle Parker, Executive Director of PAWV, hopes that the microloan program will allow people to take action in saving buildings before it is too late. "I receive many phone calls from people asking for help, and they have to wait months for deadlines and grant processes to take place. It is my goal that the microloan can be used to stabilize buildings while the owners plan and apply for larger funding and tax credits."

Loan amounts range from \$2,500 to \$10,000, repayable over a 24-month term with a 2% fixed interest rate. The loan fund's primary target market are those seeking to save an Endangered Property or those who are developing a commercial property that, when redeveloped, will lead to the creation or retention of jobs, new housing units, or other heritage related commercial activity in a commercial downtown district.

If you are interested in a Historic Preservation Microloan or know an individual or group this could benefit, [click here for more details.](#)



Appalachian Forest Discovery Center Obtains Grant from Showshoe Foundation

Moira Gasior & Sarah Rosenkrans

A big thank you to the Snowshoe Foundation! The Appalachian Forest Discovery Center received a grant from the Snowshoe Foundation for their upcoming exhibit about public lands in the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area. Public lands in the area have heavily influenced the people who live here by providing jobs, lumber for homes, a sustainable environment, hundreds of recreational activities, and more.

The summer 2020 exhibit will explore this connection to public land by examining the different agencies that manage the land and their missions as well as the multiple uses the land provides to locals and visitors. The money provided by the Snowshoe Foundation will allow the Discovery Center to produce a higher quality exhibit with more interactive elements.

Without public lands, we could not have a National Heritage Area. Hunting is a major part of our culture and other outdoor sports; city parks and picnics, public lands encourages a multi-use of shared resources. We have major partners with the federal agencies working with public lands & conservation, as well as partnerships with the state forests in WV and MD. Conservation is a major part of our mission. Public lands allow us to preserve and protect historic sites as well, like civil war battlefield state parks and native american settlement areas.

This grant will also allow the Discovery Center to expand its pollinator garden (pictured in the left column). Public lands provide safe spaces and habitats for the pollinators. We rely on pollinators for our food and environmental ecosystem. The Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area wants to do its part in helping support these important creatures. If you would like to join us by becoming a pollinator partner, visit our website for more information on our Pollinator Initiative.



If you would like to be involved in the AFDC 2020 exhibit, please contact Sarah Rosenkrans at discovery@appalachianforest.us.

Be sure to check out the Greenbrier Historical Society's Escape Room! Click here for more information and to make reservations!

Volunteer Opportunities & Upcoming Events!

12/14
1PM - 6PM

Parsons Christmas Celebration, Parsons, WV

Sleighrides, activities for kids, food vendors and hay rides. Come celebrate the holidays with a small town with a big heart.

12/14
10:30 -
6:30 PM

Christmas at Cass Craft Market

Visit the Cass Community Center and support local art and artisans! Get your last minute gifts here.

12/15
1 - 3 PM

Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Make and Take, Thomas, WV

Visit ArtSpring at Cottrill's Opera House and make a Charlie Brown Christmas Tree while supplies last. Bring your own ornament. \$15 per tree for supplies. Contact enseligman@yahoo.com for groups larger than 4.

1/4
10 AM

Winter Trails Day at Whitegrass, Davis, WV

Free lessons, area use, and clinics to all first time interested skiers or snowshoers. XC lessons every hour and a 10 am and 2 pm clinic on types of snowshoes, clothing, basic techniques, and outdoor winter snow travel followed by a natural history tour on snowshoes into neighboring National Wildlife Refuge.

Looking Forward to 2020

Phyllis Baxter, Executive Director

2019 was a banner year for Appalachian Forest, as after years of effort we were designated as a National Heritage Area.

We are now in the beginning stages of creating our management plan and will be moving forward in 2020. We will be reaching out to various interest task groups and going into communities with public meetings for anyone interested in attending. We are in the midst of compiling our asset list, and working on a new website. We are looking forward to defining who we are, what we support, and how we can help communities in the years to come.

We are excited to have your help to shape our future. If you have not yet filled out our initial planning survey, please do so to let us know you want to be part of the process by clicking the link below.

Help us with our management plan

Thank you all for your continuous support and help over the years. We couldn't have becoming AFNHA without our stakeholders, partners and friends. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

