

JANUARY 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 our 18 counties. Click the image below to visit our website for more information.



Management Planning in 2020

We are moving upward and onward in our management planning. AFNHA staff & our consultants are planning our public input meetings for this spring and summer. We are constructing our schedule for public input meetings and what task groups we will need; as well as working on our asset database.

Right now, we are looking for folks interested in being their counties **local ambassador** to help us plan public meetings, site visits for planning staff and possibly targeted meetings with groups in your community. Contact planning@appalachianforest.us if this interests you.

Be sure to take our survey if you haven't already!



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



Dardenfest 2020

Ben Duvall-Irwin

For the 4th year in a row **Dardenfest**, a music benefit event that raises money to support ArtsBank, Inc., will take place January, 25th in the Darden Mill in Elkins (hence the name). This event is organized entirely by AmeriCorps members. The members are responsible for all of the planning and logistics including finding artists to perform, securing a venue, soliciting donations for refreshments, decorating for the event, creating press releases and promotional materials like flyers, and more.

The event began in 2017 as a service project for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, and has been repeated each year as a fun opportunity to give back to the community and support the arts in our area. This year's benefit will feature acoustic performances from several local favorites including Emay, Gracie Metheny, Josh Wanstreet and Kevin Chesser, Jason Hall, Gerry Milnes, and Tucker Riggleman.

While in the past the event has usually highlighted musicians involved in Elkin's strong folk and old-time music community, this year's concert will feature a variety of musical styles from artists active in the area's music scene. These musicians are generously donating their time to ensure that all proceeds go directly to ArtsBank. Gerry Milnes, Josh Wanstreet, and Kevin Chesser will be returning from last year's show and this will be the third year for Gerry and Kevin.

Dardenfest will be held Saturday, January 25 upstairs at the Darden Mill (corner of First Street and Railroad Avenue in Elkins).

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the music begins at 7 p.m. There will be limited seating and admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

Admission is \$10, \$5 for students and AmeriCorps members. See you there!



Gerry Milnes & Josh Wanstreet performing at Dardenfest, 2019

The concert not only relies on local artists, but often involves AmeriCorps members as performers as well. Last year's concert featured AFNHA AmeriCorps alum Jen Iskow, and this year's lineup includes Tucker Riggleman who is currently serving with ArtSpring in Tucker County. Josh Wanstreet has served as an AmeriCorps VISTA for the past two years.

ArtsBank is a local non-profit that funds educational arts experiences in Randolph County public schools. ArtsBank was founded in 1992 when community members saw a lack of art education in their public schools and sought to provide art education in schools with no art teacher. Without the experience provided by ArtsBank, some students would not receive any kind of art education at school. Dardenfest helps raise funds to bring teaching artists into our public schools for instruction in painting, dance, music, writing and more. The event also supports AFNHA's mission of enhancing our region's cultural assets and improving our communities by investing in the next generation of artists.

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM DARDENFEST 2019

Monongahela National Forest Centennial — A Hundred Years of Conservation and Service

Brandy Harvey

The story of the Forest begins at the turn of the 20th century when the vast forests of West Virginia turned into a desolate landscape due to the logging and agricultural practices of the time. All that remained were piles of leftover branches called “slash”, turning the region into a tinderbox. This led to devastating fires which then caused floods to ravage not only this area but also towns downstream as far as Pittsburgh. In part to solve these issues, Congress passed the Weeks Act in 1911 which allows the federal government to purchase land with the purpose of protecting headwater streams. On April 28, 1920, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating land purchased for the protection of the Monongahela River as Monongahela National Forest.



Right: The 75th anniversary float for Monongahela National Forest at Autumn Harvest Festival in Marlinton, West Virginia, 1995.

Since the creation of Monongahela National Forest, it has grown from 7,200 acres to over 920,000 acres. The Forest has served and continues to serve the public by providing recreational opportunities, forest products, and abundant clean water.



Forest Supervisor Tony Dorrell celebrating Monongahela National Forest’s 50th anniversary with Smokey Bear. (USDA Forest Service photo)

To celebrate the Monongahela National Forest Centennial, the Forest has been working diligently to create new online content, including “**This Week in History**”, which are brief stories about important events from the past. The Forest has also created **history articles** and a **2020 Centennial Virtual Exhibit** which features items that were once used every day on the Forest but has been forgotten about over the years. Additionally, AFNHA will be sharing this new content on the AFNHA Facebook page.



Left: The 50th anniversary float for Monongahela National Forest at Mountain State Forest Festival in 1970. (USDA Forest Service photo)

The Forest will also be attending and hosting events to celebrate the Centennial throughout 2020. One of the main events planned for 2020 is the Monongahela National Forest Centennial Art Exhibit which will be held at The Arts Center in Elkins, WV from June 3 to July 24. The exhibit will feature pieces that are a reflection of the Forest from culture and history to beautiful, scenic landscapes. Through a variety of art media, the exhibit will showcase and illustrate the many different ways people relate and connect to the Forest (cont'd next page).

During the Centennial year, we invite you to enjoy your forest, share your stories, and learn with us as we look forward to the next 100 years! Check out the links to the right!

**MONONGAHELA
NATIONAL
FOREST
CENTENNIAL
WEBPAGE**

**MONONGAHELA
NATIONAL
FOREST
HISTORY &
CULTURE**

**CENTENNIAL
VIRTUAL
EXHIBIT**

**THIS WEEK IN
HISTORY**

**MONONGAHELA
NATIONAL
FOREST
CENTENNIAL
ART EXHIBIT**

**AFNHA
FACEBOOK**

Volunteer Opportunities & Upcoming Events!

1/18
SATURDAY
6-9 PM

ArtSpring Tiny Art Show Opening, Thomas, WV

Stop by during the Thomas Art Walk on January, 18th between 6-9 p.m. for this opening reception! The Tiny Art Show features small artwork from many artists from throughout our region. Artwork will be for sale in the gallery and online linked through our website later in January. The exhibit runs through Valentine's weekend so you can show us and someone you know some love.

1/19
SUNDAY
3:45-7:45 PM

Eyes on the Prize: A Celebration of Dr. King's Legacy, Elkins, WV

Join Randolph County's Cultural Awareness and Enrichment Group's celebration of Dr. King's legacy with speakers, music and dance, including Rev. Martin White, artist Laurie Goux, Michael and Carrie Kline and WV Can't Wait candidate for Attorney General Sam Petsonk. A group march starts at 3:45 from the Federal Building on 3rd street.

1/21
TUESDAY
5-7:30 PM

Creative Writing Workshop, Arthurdale, WV

Join Arthurdale Heritage Inc. & WVU Professor Caleb Milne in a creative writing class! This can be a one-time class, or you will have the opportunity to sign up for an additional 5 weeks for further instruction. Tickets for the first class must be purchased in advance at www.arthurdaleheritage.org/shop

1/25
SATURDAY
10 AM-2 PM

"I Wonder" @ Five Rivers Library of Parsons, Parsons, WV

Bring your kids to the Five Rivers Library of Parsons for a youth science program! AFNHA AmeriCorps members are putting together educational games for kids to play in part of the Fiver Rivers Library "I Wonder" program. Come see the live aquatic insects and learn how to make artful impressions of fish.

1/25
SATURDAY
7-10:30 PM

Food for Preston Benefit Concert, Arthurdale, WV

Come out for a fun night and support a great cause! Live music, free pizza from Pies & Pints, plus beer from local breweries such as High Ground Brewery and Chestnut Brew works, and more! All of the proceeds from this event are going to Food for Preston/School Stores of Preston County to help replenish the stocks of the school stores and clothe children in need. Admission is a winter clothing item or a monetary donation.

1/25
SATURDAY
7-9 PM

Dardenfest 2020, Elkins, WV

Join our AmeriCorps for a night of music and fun. On it's 4th year, Dardenfest is a fundraiser for ArtsBank, a local non-profit that supports artist residencies in Randolph County schools. The event will be held upstairs at the Darden Mill (corner of 1st St. & Railroad Ave). Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the music begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and children under 12 years are free. \$5 for Students & Americorps!

2/1
SATURDAY
2 PM

Author Talk with Fred Ziegler, Lewisburg, WV

Attention history buffs! Greenbrier Historical Society has invited local author Fred Ziegler to talk about his new book *The Settlement of the Great Greenbrier Valley, West Virginia: The People, their Homeplaces, and their lives on the Frontier* at the Barracks in Lewisburg. The address is 934 N Jefferson St N, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

2/1
SATURDAY
6-8 PM

Touchstone Center for Crafts Exhibition, Cumberland, MD

The Allegany Arts Council is thrilled to be exhibiting the work of some of the region's premier artisans during its Touchstone Center for Crafts Exhibition. A public opening for this show will be held Saturday, February 1. This exhibit will be open until Feb. 29th.

2/11
TUESDAY
7:30-9:30

ArtSpring presents: Poetry at The Billy Motel featuring Kevin Chesser & Tucker Riggelman

Join ArtSpring on Tuesday, February 11th for an evening of poetry at The Billy Motel featuring West Virginia writers Kevin Chesser and Tucker Riggelman. Free to attend, but donations for the poets are encouraged.

TBA

Black History in Beverly, Beverly, WV

Be on the lookout up upcoming event! Dr. Chris Mielke, AmeriCorps serving with Beverly Heritage Center