

MARCH 2020

GROWTH RINGS

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area News



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SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY

May 20th &

BUCKHANNON, WV

THURSDAY

May 21st

CUMBERLAND, MD



Public Meetings for our Management Plan!

These public meetings are to to explain the plan, what designation means for AFNHA and it's partners; and to start getting community input for our management plan. Anyone and everyone is invited to join us.

Meet our consultant team, hear about what's coming up for the management planning and how you can get involved. Plan to attend either in Buckhannon, May 20th, at the Opera House or Cumberland, May 21st, at the Western Maryland RR Station Concourse.

More details to follow, contact planning@afnha.org for more information.

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area promotes and supports a network of partnerships based around our unique Forest Heritage. We work in 16 West Virginia counties and two counties in Western Maryland.

To learn more about us and the work we do, including our AmeriCorps program, visit afnha.org.



Announcements!

DEAD LINE! April 5th for Site Applications for 2020 - 2021 AmeriCorps Year



AFNHA is seeking applications from non-profit organizations or associations, or government agencies, as sub-sponsor sites for AmeriCorps member assignments for the new program year to run September, 2020 through August, 2021. AFNHA AmeriCorps members will be assigned with sub-sponsor sites for projects that benefit your site and fit within our program area goals. Member activities should be project based, not for routine clerical or administrative tasks. Sub-sponsors will be responsible for supervision, facilities, cash program fee and in-kind match for the AmeriCorps service for your project(s).

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

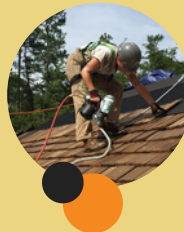


AFNHA Seeking Communications Associate Staff Member

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (AFNHA) is seeking a new Communications and Partnerships staff person to expand our core staff team. We are in the midst of a major planning effort, and this position will help conduct the management planning, expand our communications and partnership building, and support our AmeriCorps team.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

AFNHA HOT Seeking Projects for 2020



The Hands on Team project must be supervised by a qualified project supervisor, and there is a cash-match requirement. Qualifying projects are awarded on a rolling basis until all program time is filled. Must be within our 16 WV counties.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW HANDS ON TEAM PROJECT APPLICATION](#)



Open AmeriCorps Positions

We still have some AmeriCorps positions available. See the list below and for more information, visit our website by clicking the logo to the left.

- Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College: Biochar & Environmental Outreach Coordinator
- Monongahela National Forest: Trails and Dispersed Recreation
- West Virginia Railroad: Museum Coordinator
- Appalachian Forest NHA: Hands On Team

Arthurdale and the New Deal Homestead Museum

Moira Gasior

Arthurdale is an Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area partner site and is home to 3 AmeriCorps members serving there. Meredith Dreistadt is serving her 3rd year with AFNHA while obtaining a masters in Public History through WVU. Lauren Griffin and Marissa Davis are both 1st year AmeriCorps and recent WVU graduates. The three of them work closely with AHI staff and volunteers to educate visitors about the legacy of Arthurdale.

Arthurdale was the first New Deal community (out of 100) established in the history of the United States. Located in Preston County, it became a personal project of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

"The story of Arthurdale and the homesteaders starts from a situation that unfortunately many people are familiar with today: poverty," said AmeriCorps member Lauren Griffin.

Scott's Run was once one of the largest developments of coal mining areas in the country. However, operations slowed down after WWI, and screeched to a halt during the Great Depression. Journalist Lorena Hickok (a dear friend of Eleanor, better known as 'Hick') visited Scott's Run when exploring the coalfields of Appalachia during the great depression. "Most Americans would not have considered fit for pigs," wrote Hickok about Scott's Run to the First Lady in her letters. This inspired Eleanor's trip to the area in the summer of 1933.

According to historian and author Phill Ross, "Stripped of its industrial glory, Scotts Run became a bleak reminder to the public, the industry, and New Deal policymakers of the folly of unchecked development." After visiting Scott's Run, Eleanor had a desire to better the lives of the out-of-work coal miners and their families.

In 1934, Arthurdale (initially called the 'Reedsville Project') was created as a government-run homestead project out of the short-lived Subsistence Homesteads Division. The government wanted Arthurdale to be a success so people included in the program needed to be vetted.



Portrait of former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt (October 11, 1884 - November 7th, 1962). Roosevelt was known for her outspokenness, particularly on civil rights for African-Americans

Before candidates could be admitted into the new, promising program, they had to pass a test asking questions about farming, land management and maintenance. Despite the protests of Eleanor, those admitted into the program also had to be white and Christian, despite Scott's Run's population being ethnically and culturally diverse.

Homesteaders paid rent on their homes in a rent-to-own program. They were responsible for maintaining their subsistence farms, and some had jobs building other houses and buildings in the community (most of which still stand today). Some of the buildings built then make up the New Deal Homestead Museum; the Forge, the Administration Building, the Center Hall, an Esso service station, and a fully restored Arthurdale Homestead. Many of these buildings have been AFNHA Hands-On Team project sites in previous years.



The construction of a house in Arthurdale. Each homestead included farm plots of about 1 1/2 to 4 acres. Three models of house are offered for homesteaders through the project's years.



Carrying water to the miner shack, Scott's Run

All the homes built in Arthurdale featured electricity, indoor plumbing, and refrigerators. The kitchen stoves and boilers were coal-fired.



This past year, AmeriCorps member Meredith Dreistadt (*top photo, pictured with one of her panels*) obtained a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council which funded the new exhibits in the Administration Building. “The idea was essentially to remove trivial, wordy, or unrelated information and create a narrative around the development, structure, successes, and weaknesses of the community in a more or less linear fashion,” said Dreistadt. The new exhibit panels are framed in flooring from original Arthurdale buildings.

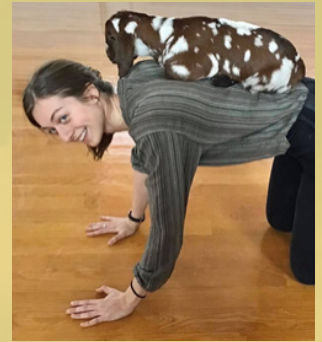


“Since it is a guided tour, I wanted the information boards to be very photo-focused and allow each tour guide to use the objects, photos, and documents as they see fit to tell the parts of the history that matter the most to them.”

The three members serving with Arthurdale Heritage Inc. often give tours of the New Deal Homestead Museum as part of their service. “I want visitors to walk away knowing more about what Arthurdale was, what its purpose was, and what it did for people,” says Marissa Davis (*middle photo, with salt-rising bread*). Passionate about history, she hopes the experiences of visitors here will inspire them to reflect on stories from their own families and communities. “I’m happy to share any and all knowledge I have about Arthurdale, but I think putting that drive in people to go out and work toward something themselves is truly the best.” She stresses the importance of personal histories not being forgotten. “If I can inspire someone to sit down and learn about little seemingly unimportant moments in a loved one’s history, I can go to bed a happy person each night. History is all about the little moments.”



Arthurdale had many successes. It gave opportunity to those suffering terribly during the Great Depression, and vastly improved the lives of those who lived there. Schools were built, specialized skills were taught to the workforce, and healthcare was provided cheaply for entire families. However, Arthurdale did not become the autonomous town that was hoped. The story of Arthurdale can help shape the way we navigate social issues today. “Arthurdale’s story demonstrates that given the chance, people can escape these conditions and create stability when policies are enacted that support struggling communities,” says Lauren Griffin (*bottom photo, with a baby goat*).



Arthurdale can give a visitor a glance into the past, yet the town isn’t in a time capsule. It is part of the landscape that makes up Preston County today. Many folks who grew up locally are still involved in Arthurdale Heritage Inc.’s mission and goal of preserving the history there. AHI promotes programming like Goat Yoga, printmaking with WV artists, and blacksmithing classes, as well as talks with homesteaders and special tours.



The New Deal Homestead Museum is open Monday – Friday, 11 AM – 3 PM (winter hours). Summer hours will resume starting May 1st.

Like Arthurdale Heritage Inc. on Facebook to stay up to date for upcoming events, fundraisers and educational opportunities.

Citizen Science in Action

Hannah Wroton

Hannah Wroton is an AFNHA AmeriCorps serving with the Monongahela Forest Service. She assists with eco-partnerships and plays an important role in CASRI and PHCWPMAs. She is a 2nd year AmeriCorps.



The Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (PHCWPMAs) has been educating students about non-native invasive species (NNIS) for 9 years and their commitment to reducing the impact of NNIS shows no sign of slowing down. Teaching alongside partners in the Rivers & Gorges CWPMA (RGCWPMA), the NNIS Citizen Science program is now being taught in 11 schools in Grant, Pendleton, Tucker, Randolph, and Pocahontas Counties and to 7 different grade levels. Expanding from the 5th grade class curriculum that had been used since 2011 into a Preschool -12th grade curriculum was a challenge but one that the AmeriCorps involved were excited to take on.

2018-2019 AFNHA AmeriCorps Jenna Happach and I worked to create 4 different curricula, each focusing on a different part of the ecosystem that is being threatened by NNIS and how students can help, with a lot of help from some incredible partners in the PHCWPMAs and RGCWPMA. Each lesson involves hands-on activities, projects, or games designed to help students connect the information they have learned to their own experiences. Our Citizen Science classes emphasize ways they can take what they have learned and use it to make real-world differences.

The students get to put their learning into practice at our spring field trip where they take part in a service project to remove non-native invasive species from the area and learn more about how Citizen Science is performed. They use iPads equipped with GPS software to map where they found NNIS and what those species were as they remove them from the ecosystem. The data they collect goes back to the US Forest Service where it becomes part of the EddMaps database. The students love knowing that all their hard work pays off in the land and will help land managers for years to come.

We are incredibly proud of the students that work with us and the partners that have dedicated their time and effort to create a lifetime of change in the world and people around them.

COOPERATIVE WEED AND PEST MANAGEMENT AREA CRAFT DAY!

To prepare for the CWPMA educational classes that both Hannah Wroton (Potomac Highlands CWPMA) and Rachel Rosenberg (Rivers & Gorges CWPMA), a craft day was held to make educational materials! All hands were on deck. Photos continued on next page.



3D models of invasive species printed by D&E College



AFNHA AmeriCorps members painting models



AFNHA AmeriCorps members painting models



AFNHA AmeriCorps Sarah Rosenkrans painting



Rusty crawfish models having a snack



CWPMA partners creating fabric hydrilla plants



Hannah creating hemlock woolly adelgid hats



Costume for an activity about an invasive beetle



Finished 3D models of zebra mussels, rusty crawfish, snakehead fish and bighead carp

Upcoming Events

3/14
SATURDAY
6 - 9 PM

Thomas Art Walk & Local Painters of the Past Closing Reception
Closing reception for exhibit during the Thomas Art Walk, which features multiple new exhibit openings throughout town. Closing reception is at Cottrill's Opera House.

3/18
SATURDAY
12 PM

Talk on Watoga Land Association, Marlinton, WV
Come hear about a black separatist community in Pocahontas County near present day Watoga State Park. Presented by AmeriCorps member (and WVU Public History graduate student). Bring a bag lunch. Takes place at the Pocahontas County Parks and Rec. building.

3/22
SATURDAY
11 AM - 12 PM

Baby Goat Yoga, Arthurdale, WV
Have you 'herd' about goat yoga? Come to the historic Center Hall for a moment of Zen with our homestead baby goats! Class is limited to 20 so reserve early! \$40 for members, \$45 for nonmembers. If the class is full, more dates will be announced on April 5th.

3/27
FRIDAY
7 PM - 12 AM

Spring Local Music Showcase, Thomas, WV
Come hear from local music from Tucker County at the Purple Fiddle! \$10 suggested donation. Some acts include Heather Hannah, Corpse Factory, The Offset, Natural Rat, Yes Alexander. Funds will go to ArtSpring.

3/28
SATURDAY
10 AM - 4 PM

Cabin Fever Craft Show, Arthurdale, WV
Celebrate Spring's arrival with the Cabin Fever Craft Show featuring WV artisans and their handmade goods! Visit historic Arthurdale's Center Hall to shake the winter blues and shop locally made treasures.

4/4
SATURDAY

Trash Cleanup at Greenland Gap, Grant County, WV
The Nature Conservancy staff will be heading out to Greenland Gap Preserve to keep our lands free of litter. This volunteer stewardship work day will be the first of 2020 for the West Virginia Chapter, and a great time for you to visit 250 acres of ecological and historical importance. Contact Karah.Jaffe@tnc.org or Patrick.Hecht@tnc.org for more information.

4/4
SATURDAY
12 PM

Civil War Symposium and Dinner, Beverly, WV
Get your tickets early! Come for a day full of Civil War History sponsored by the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation. Tickets to the symposium are \$30; tickets including the dinner soiree are \$70. Held at the I.O.O.F. Hall in Beverly.

4/9&10
THURS & FRI
10 AM

Riparian Tree Planting, Bartow, WV
The Potomac Headwaters Home Rivers Initiative works to protect, restore, and reconnect fragmented brook trout habitat. They need your help! Join them for a tree planting! Contact their AmeriCorps, Morgan Agee at morgan.agee@tu.org. Lunch will be provided! Participants meeting at Greenbrier Ranger District Office in Bartow.

4/11
SATURDAY

Eat the Invasives! Garlic-Mustard Pull at Ice Mountain, Hampshire County, WV
Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a non-native invasive species that outcompetes native plants in a variety of habitats. It's also an edible plant that can be used to make a killer pesto! Ice Mountain takes its name from an unusual geologic process that results in a natural refrigeration effect - cold air creates a micro-climate, allowing northern species to grow at a surprisingly southern latitude. Contact Karah.Jaffe@tnc.org or Patrick.Hecht@tnc.org for more information.

4/13-17
MON-FRI
10 AM

Riparian Tree Planting, Bartow, WV
The Potomac Headwaters Home Rivers Initiative works to protect, restore, and reconnect fragmented brook trout habitat. They need your help! Join them for a tree planting! Contact their AmeriCorps, Morgan Agee at morgan.agee@tu.org. Lunch will be provided! Participants meeting at Greenbrier Ranger District Office in Bartow.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR...

April 22nd, 2020: Tree Planting at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

April 30th - May 2nd, 2020: PAWV Conference

May 22 - 24th, 2020: ArtSpring Festival