

APRIL 2021

# GROWTH RINGS

APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA NEWSLETTER



## Management Planning Update

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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 2 counties in Western Maryland.

To learn more about us and the work we do, including our AmeriCorps program, visit [afnha.org](http://afnha.org) or contact Lukas Ray at [lukas@afnha.org](mailto:lukas@afnha.org) for more information

### Task Group update:

The **Asset Stewardship and Enhancement** tourism section met with consultant Carolyn Brackett in the first one-on-one meeting to garner feedback from the survey and how AFNHA can help tourism operate in the region. This group plans to meet again in June at the upcoming 2021 Tourism Summit (more info below.)

Looking forward to the summer - look for more Task Group meetings, and hopefully, an IN PERSON meeting to exchange ideas about recommendations. **Save the date for Monday July 26 for AFNHA Planning Exchange Camp** to share ideas in small groups (outdoors or in large rooms) to help build more of the details for the AFNHA Plan.



Email us at [planning@afnha.org](mailto:planning@afnha.org) if you would like to get involved in any Task Group!



**Appalachian Forest NHA Management Planning is ramping up for the spring and summer! Join us in upcoming meetings to help determine future directions for AFNHA. Meeting information listed on Page 2!**

The link for ALL of these May meetings is the same, and no preregistration is needed. [Follow Link HERE](#) or in each section.



## NEWS AND UPDATES

### Get to know AFNHA!

For anyone who is not very familiar with AFNHA or what National Heritage Area designation means, or if you just want a refresher, join us for an "AFNHA 101" virtual presentation at any of the three upcoming dates and times. These will be the same session repeated, so pick the one that works best for you. The presentation will be less than a half hour, plus we'll try to answer your questions.

#### **These will take place:**

**Friday, April 30 -- 11:30 am**

**Mon, May 3 -- 6 pm**

**Thurs, May 13 -- 3 pm**

**Click the logo for the Zoom link!**

### 2021 Annual Stakeholder Meeting

AFNHA will virtually host the 2021 Stakeholder Meeting on **May 17th from 10am-12pm on Zoom.**

Our Planning Consultants will share what they have heard about AFNHA over the last year, and engage in some discussion with you to help move the planning forward to next steps. We will also include in this time the AFNHA Annual Stakeholders meeting with an update on the last year, and a quick business meeting for Board elections.

Please plan to attend this meeting, if you can!

**Click the logo below to go to the meeting!**



Can you believe it is almost that time of year again? AFNHA AmeriCorps will soon be opening the search for new members for the 2021-2022 term! Click the AmeriCorps logo to follow information for the upcoming term!



**AmeriCorps**



**CLICK ON THE  
LOGO FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

Contact Chrissy Hall, Program Manager at [chrissyh@afnha.org](mailto:chrissyh@afnha.org) with any questions on our AmeriCorps program.



# Upcoming Events



In partnership with Eastern, AFNHA will host a 2021 Tourism Summit in early June. All tourism partners in the AFNHA region will be invited! Look out for an announcement/invite early next week. Contact Lukas at [lukas@afnha.org](mailto:lukas@afnha.org) if you have any questions.



**Click on each logo for more info!**

**Spring Mountain Festival**  
April 22nd-25th, All Day  
Petersburg, WV  
304-257-2722



Mark your calendars for the Spring Mountain Festival! Admission to the festival grounds is free and features fabulous entertainment from the festival stage, arts and craft vendors with a variety of interesting and useful creations and novelty items, rides, games, food vendors, flea market, civil war train rides, and much more!

**Black History Walking Tour**  
North House Museum  
May 2nd, 1-3pm  
Lewisburg, WV  
304-645-3398



The Greenbrier Historical Society will be offering a series of guided walking tours for groups of up to 8 people. Nine tours will be offered in 15-minute intervals, with the first beginning at 1 P.M. and the last tour beginning at 3 P.M. **\$10 per person.**

**WV Strawberry Festival**  
May 13th-16th, All Day  
Buckhannon, WV  
304-472-9036



The West Virginia Strawberry Festival truly is an exciting family tradition! As our communities continue to respond to COVID-19, The WV Strawberry Festival Board of Directors is continuing their work to think outside the box to maximize the quality of the Strawberry Festival, while keeping you and your family safe. A modified schedule of events will take place May 13 - 16, 2021. We remain optimistic for a successful Festival!

**Berry Fest at**  
**Sunset Berry Farm**  
May 30th-June 3rd,  
10am-5pm  
Alderson, WV  
304-646-3784



Sunset Berry Farm invites you out for a two week Berry Fest that will include everything from pick your own strawberries to zombie paintball! Other planned activities include: jump pad, fairy garden, scavenger hunt, pony rides, paint, sip & taste....not to mention a Goodson Boys concert!

Follow AFNHA on Facebook and Instagram!







## Life in the Quiet Zone: The Green Bank Observatory By: Ben Bafaloukos Serving with Green Bank

Telescopes. Microwaves. WiFi. These are the words that most West Virginians associate with Green Bank, and rightly so. The Green Bank Telescope (GBT) and its fellow structures dominate the lifestyle of this small town. Join Ben as he explores life, adventure, and his work at Green Bank!

Click [HERE](#) to read the full story!

## Discovery happens at Seneca Rocks! By: Cassidy Attanasio Serving with Seneca Rocks

My time so far serving as an AFNHA AmeriCorps with the USDA Forest Service has provided me with many more opportunities than I could have expected. My service focuses on interpretation at the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center, a place where visitors flock from miles and miles through windy country roads to learn more about what makes this area so unique...



Click [HERE](#) to read the full story!