

APRIL 2023

GROWTH RINGS

APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA NEWSLETTER



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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.

National Volunteer Week

April 16-22 is National Volunteer Week! We encourage you to participate by showing appreciation for volunteers in your area or joining a volunteer event. Our **Appalachian Forest Volunteers** program can help connect volunteers and organizations in our area.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- April 17-18 | Tree Planting | Spruce Knob Lake
- April 19-20 | Tree Planting | Parsons
- April 22 | Tree Planting | Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge
- April 22 | Earth Day Lake Clean Up | Summersville Lake
- April 22 | Philippi Cemetery Cleanup
- April 22 | Highway Cleanup | Durbin & Bartow
- April 22 | River Cleanup | Elkins
- May 5 | Cheat River Festival | Albright
- May 6 | Red Spruce Planting | Kumbrabow State Forest
- May 19-20 | Book Sale | Elkins-Randolph Public Library
- May 22 | Adventure Camp | Seneca Rocks Disc. Center
- Ongoing | Transcriptionist | Hardy County CVB

Visit afnha.galaxydigital.com to view all upcoming needs in our region or submit your own!



AFNHA News

Stakeholder Meeting

We will hold our annual Stakeholder Meeting on Monday, May 22nd in Lewisburg. The event will take place from 10am-3pm at Carnegie Hall. This public meeting will give attendees the chance to learn about local partners and projects in Greenbrier County, as well as AFNHA's upcoming and ongoing programs. Attendance is free and includes lunch, networking opportunities, presentations from AFNHA and local organizations, and local history tours. **Register HERE!**

Draft Agenda:

- 9:30 - Registration Open
- 10:00 - Report on AFNHA Programs & Projects
- 11:15 - Breakout Groups
 - Facilitated networking sessions on Conservation/Outdoor Recreation and Heritage/Community Development
- 12:30 - Lunch
- 1:30 - Group Discussion and Annual Membership Meeting
- 1:45 - Panel Discussion: Greenbrier County partners
- 2:45 - Closing Remarks
- 3:00 - Optional tours of Downtown Lewisburg and the North House Museum

See our [list of suggested sites, attractions, and businesses](#) in the area for you to explore on your own!



AFNHA News

Agritourism Summit

The first ever Potomac Highlands Agritourism Summit was held on March 15, at the Misty Mountain Event Barn. Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College (Eastern) partnered with AFNHA, WVU Extension Service, the WV Department of Agriculture, and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to make this event happen. Notable attendees include Kent Leonhardt, WV Department of Agriculture commissioner, Joe Hatton, WV Department of Agriculture deputy commissioner, and Bill Woodrum, senior program officer of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

AFNHA promoted our Highlands Creative Economy Council as part of a panel on resources for agritourism businesses. Read more about the event [here](#).



AFNHA News

Inclusive Storytelling Program

The National Park Foundation has launched a new nationwide program, Inclusive Storytelling, and with it the first cohort of grantees, with a total of \$2 million granted to projects. 28 National Heritage Areas across 23 states (including AFNHA) are collaborating to research, develop, and share 250 stories in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Researchers and writers will work with each National Heritage Area to craft their stories and ready them for interpretive products including websites, exhibits, and podcasts. Read about the program [here](#).

This collaboration with other NHAs is concurrent to our own **America250** project. We have formed a committee to develop an AFNHA America250 program and support sites that tell stories, programs, tours, and exhibits, of all who have contributed to America. The program will feature significant local stories and include under-represented people who have found home in our area.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 25th at 10:00am on zoom ([link to join meeting](#)). Email phyllisb@afnha.org (and copy discovery@afnha.org) to let us know your level of interest in the committee, a project, or in being an interpretation or subject matter advisor.

Regional News

The City of Elkins is seeking a [Communication Specialist](#)

Beverly Heritage Center is seeking an [Executive Director](#)

Tucker County Community Foundation created an endowment to provide perpetual funding for a [historic cemetery in Barbour County](#)

Seneca Rocks Discovery Center Seeks [Appalachian Artists & Artisans](#) for the 2023 Season

Stargazing cabins, more campsites, coming to [Coopers Rock State Forest](#)
Summersville Lake featured as the best beach in WV by [HGTV](#)

AmeriCorps Stories

Governor's Cup Ski Race has Record-Breaking Number of Participants By Kristin Winebrenner

Recognized as the longest running race throughout the southeast, the 63rd West Virginia Governor's Cup Ski Race was presented by Alpine Festival and hosted by Timberline Mountain on March 11th-12th, 2023. This year's race was record-breaking in its number of skiers with 222 participants! According to local ski history, this number surpasses the original record of 168 participants in 1980.

Read more about the event [here](#).



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Weaving in Arthurdale By Kendyl Bostic

When Arthurdale was established in 1934, one of the most pressing concerns for newly arrived homesteaders (and the government that supported the project) was jobs. Weaving was a cottage industry that became one of the most important in the town. For a number of years, there has been a small group of Arthurdale Weavers who get together to make projects on some of the historic looms that Arthurdale Heritage owns. When Kendyl Bostic began her AmeriCorps service in fall 2021 she was invited to take an introductory weaving class, and she was immediately hooked.



Read more of Kendyl's story [here](#).

AmeriCorps Opportunities

AmeriCorps Positions are still available for the 2022-23 Term

AFNHA AmeriCorps members provide a year of service, allowing an individual to benefit local communities, assets, and landscapes while gaining professional development, strengthening their own skills, and following their passions. AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance stipend, a WV State Tuition Waiver plus an Education Award upon completion.

Available Conservation, Heritage & Community Development Positions:

- ✓ AFNHA Heritage Tourism
- ✓ Beverly Heritage Center
- ✓ Monongahela National Forest: Mon Forest Towns
- ✓ Tourism Positions in Pocahontas, Mineral, Nicholas, and Hampshire Counties
- ✓ WV Railroad Museum

To learn more about our positions visit our website
<https://www.appalachianforesthna.org/positions>

We will soon begin recruiting for the 2023-24 Service Term!



Events

Click links for more info

- April 21-23 | [Uniquely WV Festival](#) | Berkeley Springs
- April 27-30 | [World League FlingGolf Regional](#) | Capon Springs & Farms
- April 28-29 | [Festival of Children's Literature](#) | Frostburg State University
- April 28-30 | [Spring Mountain Festival](#) | Petersburg
- April 29 | [Great Greenbrier River Race](#) | Marlinton
- April 30 | [Families In Nature Learning Day](#) | Davis & Elkins College
- May 2-7 | [National Travel & Tourism Week](#) | Summersville
- May 5-6 | [Cheat River Festival](#) | Albright
- May 5-6 | [WV Trout Fest](#) | Franklin
- May 6 | [Lost River Trail Run](#) | Lost River State Park
- May 6 | Barbour County Community Yard Sale
- May 8 | [Burnsville Lake Crappie Tournament Series](#)
- May 11-14 | [Wildflower Pilgrimage](#) | Blackwater Falls State Park
- May 12-23 | [Ronceverte Food Truck Festival](#)
- May 13 | [Maryland Native Plant Festival](#) | New Germany State Park
- May 13-21 | [WV Strawberry Festival](#) | Buckhannon
- May 21 | [Spring Festival](#) | Evergreen Heritage Center
- May 26-28 | [Webster County Woodchopping Festival](#) | Webster Springs

Ramp Dinners & Events

- April 21 | [An Appalachian Extravaganza](#) | Upshur County Public Library
- April 22 | [Feast of the Ramson](#) | Richwood
- April 22 | [Wildflower Festival & Ramp Romp 5k](#) | Yew Mountain Center
- April 22 | [Sutton Moose Lodge Ramp Dinner](#)
- April 29 | [Camp Caesar](#) | Cowen
- April 29 | [Ramp Cookoff](#) | Deep Creek Lake State Park
- April 29 | [Ramps & Rail Festival](#) | Elkins
- April 29 | [Helvetia Ramp Supper](#)
- April 29 | [Levaisy Ramp Dinner](#) | People's Place Community Center
- April 29 | [Mount Liberty Community Ramp Dinner](#) | Philippi
- May 6 | [Erbacon Ramp Dinner](#) | Cowen
- May 7 | [Frametown Ramp Dinner](#)

Read more info about ramps on our [website!](#)



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