



DECEMBER 2022

# GROWTH RINGS

APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA NEWSLETTER



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 1:** AFNHA Updates
- Page 2:** AmeriCorps Stories
- Page 3:** AmeriCorps Stories
- Page 4:** AmeriCorps Opportunities
- Page 5:** Creative Economy
- Page 6:** Events



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).

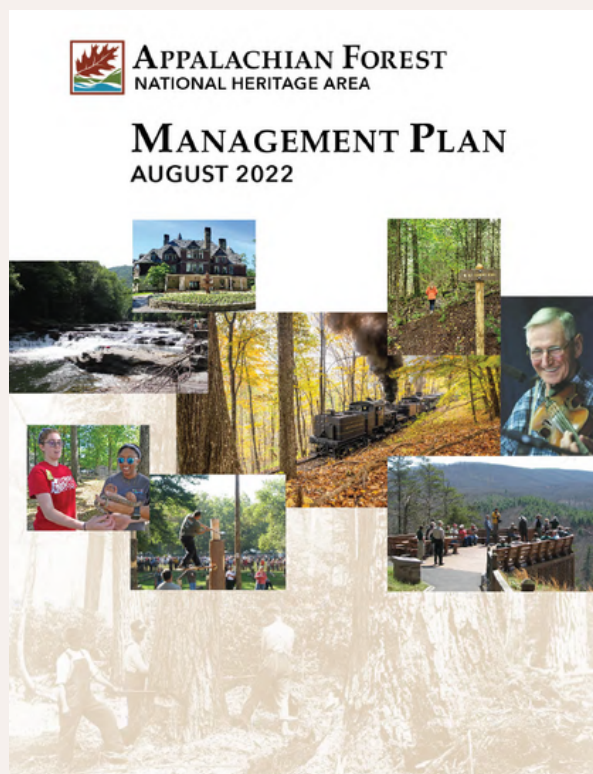


## Help Support our National Heritage Area

Three years after designation as a National Heritage Area, the AFNHA Management Plan has been submitted. Now we move forward to accomplish the ambitious goals of the plan -- to conserve and enhance our area's assets, to share our stories, to build sustainable tourism, to strengthen our partnership network, and to sustain the coordinating organization, AFHA Inc. As we move forward to accomplish multiple projects within these goals, we look to partners and supporters to help with their participation and resources.

National Heritage Area funding will help us towards many of these goals, but all of that federal money has to be matched. Your donation now will help to match federal dollars, accomplish concrete projects, and to implement the AFNHA Management Plan.

Please consider giving to support our programs by clicking [here!](#)



# AmeriCorps Stories



AmeriCorps  
West Virginia

## Telling Civil War Stories with a New Window Exhibit By Griffin Nordstrom

During the Civil War, several buildings in the town of Beverly were used as hospitals for both sides of the war. After the Battle of Philippi, one of the first amputations of the Civil War was performed in town by Dr. John Huff; where he used a butcher knife and a carpenter saw to treat a Confederate soldier who had been hit in the leg by a cannonball.

Click [HERE](#) to learn how Griffin repurposed an existing space to turn this story into a new exhibit!



## Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding By Amylynn Ephraim



On a cold clear night, when the moon is dark and a north wind blows, northern saw-whet owls take wing for their fall migration. Bird banders across the US and Canada set up their nets in strategic locations and watch the weather closely for good conditions, checking their nets regularly for birds.

Click [HERE](#) to learn how how volunteers at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge identify and track owls for study!

Please consider giving to support our AmeriCorps program by clicking [here!!](#)

# AmeriCorps Stories



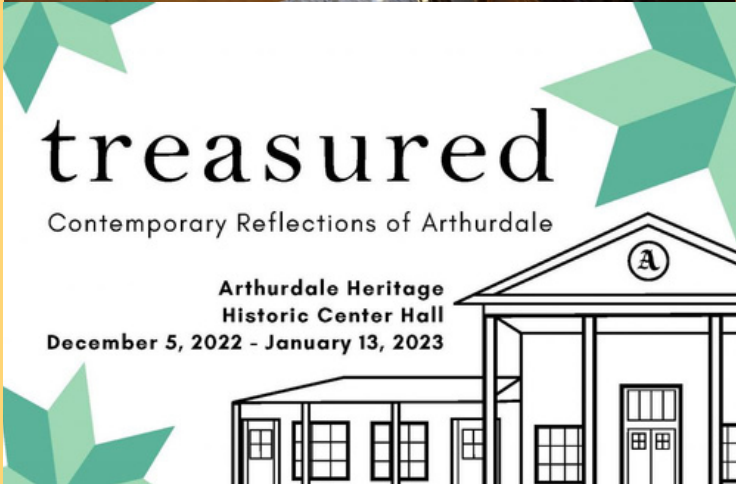
AmeriCorps  
West Virginia

## Reflections of Arthurdale by New Exhibit: *Treasured* By Kendyl Bostic

The new temporary exhibit at Arthurdale Heritage, *Treasured: Contemporary Reflections of Arthurdale* focuses on the threads which connect Arthurdale's past to its present and future. Through rare and magnificent objects either on loan or in the archival collection, Arthurdale connects these pieces of historic significance to current and future projects. As the exhibit explains, these objects represent the stories of individuals and families who called this town home and they “now challenge us to press onward, imagining what we will achieve together.”

In our new exhibit, you can learn not only about Arthurdale's history but also about our organizational efforts and plans for the future. ***Treasured* will be on display until January 13 from Monday-Friday 10-3.**

Click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) to read more of Kendyl's story!



# AmeriCorps Positions - Apply Today

## AFNHA AmeriCorps Program Builds Community Ambassadors

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. AFNHA pairs talented individuals with partner organizations helping to fulfill our mission.

Please consider giving to support our AmeriCorps program [here!](#)

### Available Conservation Positions include:

- ✓ Monongahela National Forest: Mon Forest Towns
- ✓ WV Highlands Conservancy
- ✓ AND MORE

### Available Heritage & Community Development Positions:

- ✓ AFNHA Heritage Tourism
- ✓ Arthurdale Heritage Inc.
- ✓ Tourism Positions in Pocahontas, Mineral, Nicholas, Hardy, and Hampshire Counties
- ✓ WV Railroad Museum
- ✓ AND MORE

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



"I have grown personally and professionally through my experiences at the Green Bank Observatory. Everyone I have had the pleasure of meeting here at Green Bank has been extremely welcoming, which made the transition to living here much easier than it could have been."

-Joe Medica

"I have had the joyful experience of serving at Adaland Mansion as one of my AmeriCorps sites since the beginning of June. Learning the various histories of each owner and caretaker of Adaland has taken some time, but everyone here really feels like family."

-Hannah Thome



"I can say with assurance that I am so glad I was welcomed back to Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge for a second term. It has been a joy to jump into projects with an understanding and interest that was not yet developed the first time around."

-Hannah Studdard

# Highlands Creative Economy

## Highlands Creative Economy Helps Connect Communities

Last year we received a major grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to expand regional activities promoting the creative economy in the Appalachian Forest region. Working in partnership with Eastern WV Community and Technical College, this project expanded work of the Potomac Highlands Creative Economy group to include all 18 counties within the National Heritage Area to expand partnerships and grow networking opportunities for all communities. This initiative has sponsored our monthly online meetings, dozens of free workshops and training, a pilot grant program, and the return of our annual Tourism Summit.

This Benedum grant will end next year, but the Highlands Creative Economy program will continue to bring stakeholders together and we will need your help to keep these gatherings and trainings free to participants.

Read more about our Creative Economy accomplishments in 2022 [here](#), or sign up to receive meeting invites [here](#). At our next meeting on January 26th we will discuss accessibility issues in the tourism industry.

### SURVEY SAYS...

#### WHAT BENEFITS HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED FROM HIGHLANDS CREATIVE ECONOMY?

*"Increased networking and outreach opportunities"*

*"Reassurance and camaraderie"*

*"I am very appreciative of all the hard work of the HCE. I like the asset list compiled and hope to see it used in the future in creative marketing ways"*

#### WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE TOURISM SUMMIT?

*"Venue was outstanding. [I enjoyed] the opportunity to network."*

*"I really enjoyed Dr Dee Knight and her statistics and information from her session."*

*"I gain a great deal for participating with this initiative."*

*"This was an excellent event and I'm very glad I attended. A lot of information was shared as well as contact information for follow-up. Thank you very much."*

# Events

## Ski Season in the AFNHA

Our National Heritage Area is home to most of West Virginia's ski resorts, making it the perfect destination for winter sports.

Snowshoe Mountain, Timberline Mountain, Wisp Resort, and White Grass Ski Touring Center are all open now.

Silver Creek will open 12/16. Canaan Valley Resort will open 12/17.

## Ski Resort Events

Dec 17 | Winter Brewfest | Snowshoe Mountain Resort

Dec 22-25 | Christmas Activities | Canaan Valley Resort

Dec 31 | New Year's Party & Fireworks Show | Canaan Valley Resort

Jan 6-8 | College Weekend | Timberline Resort

## Other Events

Dec 16 | Winter Market | Linwood Community Library

Dec 16 | Christmas Pop Up | Artistry on Main

Dec 16-24 | Polar Express Train Ride | Cumberland

Dec 17 | National Maple Syrup Day

Visit <http://maple.wvmspa.org/> or more information on producers in your area, or to register your maple business.

Producers can also visit <https://www.future.edu/maple/> for free resources and trainings.

Dec 17 | Old Fashioned Christmas Program | Hacker Valley

Dec 17 | Christmas in Kingwood

Dec 17 | A Great Small Town Christmas | Oakland B&O Museum

Dec 17 | Christmas at Cacapon | Cacapon State Park Resort

Dec 17 & 19 | Holiday Cards and Caroling | The Golden Rule

Dec 18 | Brown Oaks Christmas Open House | Summersville

Dec 18 | Christmas Parade & Vendor Show | Petersburg

Dec 18 | Ridgeley Community Christmas Celebration | Ridgeley VFW

Dec 31 | New Year's Eve Party | Arthurdale Heritage

Jan 1 | Shanghai Parade | Lewisburg | Read more about this unique event on our [website](#)

Jan 21 | Dardenfest | Appalachian Forest Discover Center

See the complete "[Come to Hampshire for the Holidays](#)" event guide

See the complete schedule for "[Merry Mountain Christmas in Elkins](#)"



Follow Us On Facebook & Instagram!

