

JULY 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.

Grant Applications Due Soon!

Grants

Applications are open for our new **Appalachian Forest Grants Program** that will distribute \$200,000 to non-profit or government organizations in our 18 county region. Grant requests can be from \$1,000 to \$20,000 for projects that support preservation, interpretation, tourism development, and partnership development.

Applications are due July 31, 2023. The application and full guidelines can be found at afnha.org/sub-grants

Have ideas for a project or need help with your applications? Email us with questions at grants@afnha.org



Tourism Summit

Thursday, August 3rd

Evergreen Heritage Center

15613 Trimble Rd NW, Mt. Savage, MD 21545

Join us for our **Highlands Creative Economy Tourism Summit** on Thursday, August 3rd at the Evergreen Heritage Center in Allegany County, Maryland. See draft agenda or register at www.appalachianforestnha.org/tourism-summit

This year's summit will focus on improving visitor experience for sustainable tourism. Concurrent sessions will feature presentations on Maryland examples of best practices and tools and examples for improving visitor experience. There will also be networking opportunities and local tours. This event is FREE to attend (lunch included) and is open to anyone interested or involved in the tourism, lodging, and hospitality industries: business owners, CVBs and local leaders, and tourist attractions. All in the AFNHA region are invited to attend!

The Keynote Address by Dr. Susan Williams (Concord University) will cover "Maximizing experience for sustainable tourism". Other session topics will include a tour of educational programs at Evergreen Heritage Center, Promotion at the State and Local Level, Trail Development from Proposal to Established Initiative, Maryland Heritage Areas, Accessibility, and more.

We will also host tours of attractions in downtown Cumberland on Wednesday, August 2nd.



Other AFNHA News

America250 in the Appalachian Forest will commemorate the semiquincentennial of the founding of America by sharing the stories of the people, communities, and places that have shaped our region.

Partners are encouraged to participate through:

- 1) Submission of stories related to these themes for posting on the AFNHA America250 blog. Blog posts will include a cover photo, a summary of the story, and may have a longer narrative or links to more information when appropriate.
- 2) Developing projects to tell your America250 story. These may include a variety of project formats, such as research or oral history, digital, audio, or video products, interpretive signage, stationary or traveling exhibits, live programs, participation projects, youth projects, or preservation/conservation projects that include a storytelling aspect. America250 projects may be eligible for AFNHA sub-grants.

Learn more at <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/america250>

AFNHA Seeking Museum Design Consultant

Help us develop and design a new major exhibit for the Appalachian Forest Discovery Center reflecting our new revised themes. Proposals are requested by August 15. See the Request for Proposal [HERE](#).

Upcoming AFNHA events

Join us next Thursday, July 20th at 7:00pm for a presentation about the relationship between pollinators and agroforestry as part of Future Generations University's "**Out of the Woods**" **webinar series**! Register or learn more at <https://www.future.edu/maple>

Introducing **Monday Movies at the Museum**! Join us Monday evenings at the Appalachian Forest Discovery Center in August for screenings of several documentaries focused on cultural and forest heritage in our area! We will be sharing more specifics soon, so stay tuned!

AmeriCorps Opportunities

Now recruiting AmeriCorps members for our 2023-24 service year!

We are currently recruiting for over 30 positions for the 2023-24 service year beginning September 7th, 2023. AFNHA AmeriCorps service allows an individual to benefit local communities and landscapes while gaining professional skills and experience and earning money to pay for school or student loans. AmeriCorps members receive a \$20,000 stipend, a \$6,895 education award upon completion, and may be eligible for a WV Public Higher Education Tuition Waiver.

View the full list of available positions at <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/positions>

New positions include:

AFNHA - Conservation & Volunteer Coordinators

Monongahela National Forest - Archaeological Technician (Richwood, WV)

Pocahontas County CVB - Tourism Community Development Liaison

Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee - Research & Technical Associate



AmeriCorps Stories

An Archeological Survey By Adam Ockers

"Few fields of study have the romantic appeal of archeology. I too began to dream of solving ancient mysteries and finding the sorts of artifacts that end up in world famous museums. With time these dreams were sidelined, but they never truly left. So, when I was offered a chance to help out in an archeological survey, in my role as an AmeriCorps member serving with the heritage program of the Monongahela National Forest, you could call it something of a dream come true."

Read more of Adam's story [HERE!](#)



Preserving Traditions at the Augusta Heritage Center By Josh Wanstreet

Elkins, West Virginia has the unique distinction of being home to many musicians who play traditional Appalachian "old time" music. Elkins is also home of the Augusta Heritage Center, a non-profit organization that began conducting music, crafts and dance workshops as well as concerts, dances and audio and video documentation beginning in 1973 and celebrating its fiftieth year in 2023. AmeriCorps Member Josh is helping preserve traditions through documentation, music lessons, and more.

Read more of Josh's story [HERE!](#)



View Augusta's schedule of workshops, concerts, dances and other events happening this month at augustaartsandculture.org

AmeriCorps Stories

Randolph County Museum's New Exhibit By Maddy Fleming

“This year as an AmeriCorps member has been one full of learning. I have experienced much of what I expected and an equal amount of things I did not expect, but am endlessly grateful for. One experience I anticipated with enthusiasm was the opportunity to work hands-on with an exhibit at the Randolph County Museum. As with any new job, however, crafting a museum exhibit, especially for the first time, can be an intimidating task.”

Read how Maddy researched, designed, and put together a new exhibit [HERE!](#)



Events

Click links for more info

July 15-23 | [Allegany County Fair](#)

July 16 | [Preston County History Day](#)

July 17-24 | [World Association of Marching Show Bands](#) | Buckhannon

July 19-22 | [Nicholas County Fair](#)

July 22 | [Swilled Dog Summer Bash](#) | Upper Tract

July 22 | [Beverly Heritage Day](#) | Beverly Heritage Center

July 28-Aug 5 | [Cherry River Festival](#) | Richwood

July 28-29 | [Williamsburg Community Fair](#)

July 28-30 | [Blues & Brews Festival](#) | Snowshoe Mountain

July 29-Aug 5 | [Tri-County Fair](#) | Petersburg

Aug 1-5 | [Pickin' in Parsons Bluegrass Festival](#)

Aug 4-6 | [West Virginia Peach Festival](#) | Romney

Aug 5 | [Lurchfest](#) | Philippi

Aug 5 | [Railroad Reminiscences](#) | Piedmont

Aug 12 | [Big Funky Blues Fest](#) | McHenry

Aug 12 | [Lost River Classic Gravel Race](#) | Mathias

Regular live music:

Thursdays | [Our Town free concert series](#) | Elkins

Thursdays | [Summer Concert Series](#) | Barbour County Courthouse

Fridays | [MAC Music Summer](#) | Berkeley Springs

Fridays | [Little Yough Summer Music Festival](#) | Oakland

Fridays | [Music in the Park](#) | Hardy Co

Fridays | [Festival Fridays](#) | Buckhannon

Fridays | [Braxton Jamboree](#) | Gassaway

Fridays | [Music in the Garden](#) | Richwood

Fridays | [First Fridays](#) | Marlinton

Saturdays | [MAC Music Summer](#) | Berkeley Springs



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