

JUNE 2020

GROWTH RINGS

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area News



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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 two counties in Western Maryland.

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

JOIN US IN JUNE!

June 16th, 2020 at 4 PM
on Zoom

Be sure to join us in our Virtual Public Meeting happening tomorrow (June 16th, 2020) at 4 PM on Zoom. AFNHA will be holding an informational virtual meeting about the management planning process. Our goals for the meeting are to:

- Explain what a National Heritage Area is
- Introduce our consulting team, Point Heritage Development
- Detail the 'why and how' of the management planning process
- Inform participants of the Task Groups and how they can get involved.

**Register ahead of time
and learn more about
the meeting here!**

We would love to see you attend this meeting. Participants can either represent themselves as a stakeholder, or represent an organization they are a part of. We encourage all participants to ask any questions they may have.

Vote for the AFNHA Board!
Details on Page 2

Announcements

AFNHA Board Elections - Virtual Meeting

Since we didn't get to hold our usual stakeholder meeting in this unusual year, we are holding annual elections by Zoom meet on **Wed, June 17, at 4 PM**. Board members generally serve 3 year terms, and reflect different interests and communities. Everyone who receives this newsletter is a member of AFNHA and eligible to vote. Nomination slate as follows:



RE-ELECT:

		Term Ends	
Bob Johnson	Richwood, WV	2023	<i>community development</i>
Susan Williams	Princeton, WV	2023	<i>Tourism council, professor</i>
Kent alker	Webster County, WV	2023	<i>Cowen Town Council</i>
Ed Kraynok	Ripley, WV	2023	<i>WV Forestry Association</i>

NEW TERMS:

Kim Folk	Garrett County, MD	2023	<i>Mountain Maryland Heritage Area</i>
Erica Marks	Pocohontas County, WV	2021	<i>Director, Yew Mountain Center</i>



ZOOM LINK HERE!

AFNHA Recruiting AmeriCorps

AFNHA is now recruiting for the 2020 - 2021 cohort of AmeriCorps members! Check out the link below to see what positions are open.



CHECK OUT POSITIONS!

Augusta Festival Online!

Due to COVID-19, Augusta Festival is going virtual! On a sliding scale rate, participants will have access to various classes, instructions, and educational opportunities! The online content will be available to participants from late June to early September!

LEARN MORE



Discover Nature Day!



Photo from Discover Nature Day 2019

Discover Nature Day is back for its 9th year, this time with a twist! We have moved to a virtual event this year in order to promote safety. The event, organized with the Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (PHCWPMA), is usually a day geared toward K-5th grade children who want to learn more about the natural world. This year it will be an entire week of virtual content, June 20th -27th. Join us to learn about our state's unique and wonderful wildlife through crafts, interactive videos, and live animal presentations!

Like PHCWPMA on Facebook for Discover Nature Day Content!

Upcoming Events

6/16
TUESDAY
4 PM

AFNHA Virtual Public Meeting, Virtual

Learn how you can participate in our Management Planning process, meet our consultants, and get your questions answered. Pre-registration encouraged. Visit our website for more information.

6/17
WEDNESDAY
4 PM

AFNHA Board Elections, Virtual

We didn't get to hold our usual stakeholder meeting in this unusual year, we are holding annual elections by Zoom. Everyone who receives this newsletter is a member of AFNHA and eligible to vote. Just join us at the link above.

6/20
SATURDAY
1 PM

Interview with Kamika Marshall, Virtual

Join the Beverly Heritage Center on Facebook for this livestream will be an interview with Kanika Marshall, a family history researcher who will talk about tracing her roots back to Margaret Booker, an enslaved woman living in Beverly in the 1840s-1860s.

6/20 - 6/27

Discover Nature Day, Virtual

Featuring virtual animal exhibits, educational videos, presentations, lessons, and more! Join in the fun at the Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area Facebook page!

6/24
WEDNESDAY
1 PM

PAWV Windows Workshop Webinar, Virtual

Join the AFNHA Hands-on Team while they lead a virtual workshop in how to repair and restore historic windows. Pre-registration required. Be sure to check out PAWV's other events!

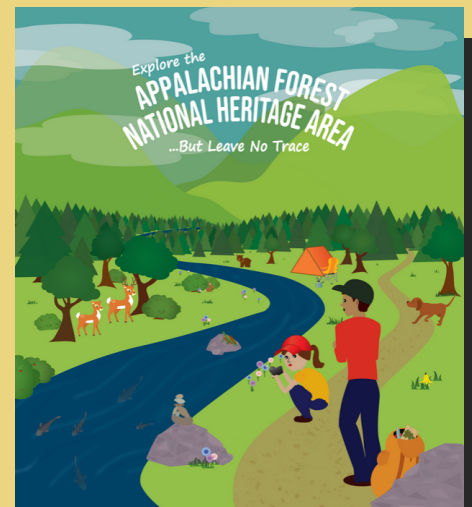
6/27
SATURDAY
1 PM

Bank Window Ribbon Cutting and Architecture Walking Tour, Beverly, WV

Join BHC for a ribbon cutting ceremony where we restore the appearance of a stained glass window to the Beverly Bank building and then go on a walking tour of Beverly's Architectural gems! The ribbon cutting is free to the public. The architecture walking tour is \$10 regular admission, \$5 for members of BHC. Please wear a mask!

AFNHA Board Election Meeting

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area is now accepting applications for the 2020 - 2021 AmeriCorps cohort!



Sarah's design for a 'Leave No Trace' activity in her exhibit.

AmeriCorps Service During COVID-19 (cont'd.)

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

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