

JUNE 2022

GROWTH RINGS

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area News



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 1** AFNHA Meetings
- Page 2 Management Plan Update
- Page 3** WV Railroad Museum Q&A
- Page 4** AmeriCorps Happenings
- Page 5** Tribal Leader Visit | Volunteer Recognized
- Page 6** AmeriCorps Recruitment

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.



AFNHA Public Meetings

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area is holding two public meetings in June to review its management plan draft, which has been three years in the making. The meetings will present the Management Plan for public review, discuss AFNHA progress and next steps.

JUNE 28TH IN-PERSON MEETING

AFNHA Public Meeting for Management Plan Draft Review, along with Annual Membership Meeting, will be held at Adaland Mansion from 10 am to 3 pm, June 28 2022.

Morning session will present highlights of the Management Plan and AFNHA projects, with opportunity for comments and plan feedback before submission to the National Park Service.

Lunch of pulled pork and sides/dessert will be provided. Please email us in advance if you have alternative dietary needs. The afternoon will offer breakout groups to discuss how we may partner together under the new National Heritage Area banner and move forward with the work of the NHA.

Self-guided tours of Adaland Mansion will be available at 9 am and 3 pm.

Visit afnha.org to RSVP!

Adaland Mansion: 324 Mansion Dr. Philippi, WV



JUNE 29TH VIRTUAL MEETING

A second virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 29th at 2:00 pm for those interested in attending. The virtual meeting will present more details of the management plan, as well as a chance to comment.

If interested in attending, visit afnha.org to pre-register!

We Want Your Feedback!

Review & Comment on the Management Plan Draft NOW at afnha.org

Management Plan Update

Our official Management Draft Plan is NOW AVAILABLE online!

Review and comment on the Management Plan draft online now at afnha.org.
The Management Plan is available for public comment June 24 - July 24.



Watch afnha.org for updates on where you can find a hard copy to review. Hard copies are being distributed across the region. Direct any questions to planning@afnha.org.

Send a Letter of Support

Support letters from partner organizations will also be included in the plan. To learn how to submit a support letter email Phyllis at phyllisb@afnha.org with questions!

AFNHA Important Dates

June 28 - AFNHA Public Meeting and Management Plan Review | 10am @ Adaland Mansion

June 29 - AFNHA Virtual Meeting and Management Plan Review | 2pm via Zoom

July 21 - Highlands Creative Economy Meeting | 10am via Zoom

June 24 - July 24 - Draft Management Plan Public Comment Period

View online at afnha.org or learn where you can read a hardcopy.

Our National Heritage Area Events

June 25 - Pete Tenney Live Music | 7pm-8:30pm @ Seneca Shadows Campground Ampitheater

June 29 - Farm to Table Dinner in the Potomac Highlands | 4pm-8pm @ Misty Mountain Event Barn

July 2 - Saturday Nature Stroll | 10am @ Canaan Valley Resort

July 2 and 9 - Nature Journaling | 2:30pm @ Seneca Rocks Discovery Center

July 23 - Beverly Heritage Days | 10am @ Beverly Heritage Center

July 29-31 - Annual Mushroom Foray | All Day @ Blackwater Falls State Park



West Virginia Railroad Museum Exhibit: What You Should Know

Emma Pringle

We sat down with AFNHA AmeriCorps member **Emma Pringle** to talk about her new exhibit at the **West Virginia Railroad Museum**!

Q: What's the name of the exhibit?

Emma: Coal and the Railroad

Q. Who is it for?

Emma. For railroad fans, for community members, and for people visiting Elkins.

Q: What is the inspiration behind the exhibit?

Emma: I was inspired by the question of how the relationship between coal and railroads in West Virginia changed over time, and how this affected life in the mountain state.

Q: What makes this exhibit unique?

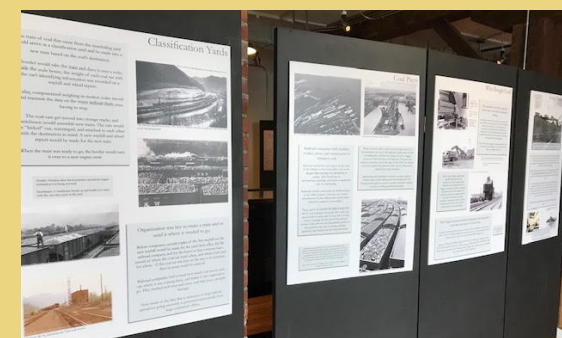
Emma: This exhibit is a thorough introduction into the evolution of the coal and railroad industries, and the way that relationship has changed over time. This exhibit includes guest panels from the Friends of Blackwater Rail Trail in Thomas, WV, telling the story of the railroad-coal mining-coke ovens industrial complex built by Henry Gassaway Davis, and objects from as far away as New River Gorge national park archive. We have a good balance of both state-wide history and local history. And our museum is right next to the Elkins Welcome Depot, where the New Tygart Flyer, a scenic railroad train, comes to pick up passengers to take to High Falls on Cheat Mountain.

Q: How much is it to visit the museum?

Emma: On a normal day, it costs \$5 to visit the museum for everyone over 12 years old-- but on the last Friday of the month, we have a Free Admission Day. This Friday, June 24th, come and see our new exhibit.

Q: When can people come see it?

Emma: We are open from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Thursdays through Sundays. We are located on the second floor of the Darden Mill at 101 Railroad Avenue in Elkins, West Virginia.



The exhibit, **Coal and the Railroad**, has been made possible in part by a grant from the **West Virginia Humanities Council**. This project is presented with financial assistance from the **West Virginia Humanities Council**, a state affiliate of the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the **West Virginia Humanities Council** or the **National Endowment for the Humanities**.

AmeriCorps Happenings

On June 1st, AFNHA AmeriCorps members attended a team meeting at the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center. Members enjoyed connecting with each other and AFNHA staff, multiple presentations, and a tour of the pollinator garden and Seneca Rocks Homestead!



The AFNHA office got a facelift thanks to AFNHA AmeriCorps members Emma Pringle and Kari Roberts! Stop by 6 Second Street in Elkins to take a look!



Tribal Leaders Visit AFNHA

Executive Director Phyllis Baxter and Deputy Director Logan Smith were excited to welcome Tribal leaders, Joe Stahlman (Tribal Historic Preservation Office Director for the Seneca Nation) and Fileve Palmer to the AFNHA this past week.

Joe and Fileve provided valuable insight to the Management Plan draft throughout their stay.

Phyllis and Logan took them on a tour of the region which included Camp Horseshoe, the Appalachian Forest Discovery Center and Seneca Rocks.

We hope they visit again soon!



Joe Stahlman, Tribal Historic Preservation Office Director for the Seneca Nation and his wife Fileve Palmer provided advice for the new exhibit in the Appalachian Forest Discovery Center.

Elkins Depot Welcome Center Volunteer Appreciation Dinner | Q&A With AmeriCorps Member Morgan Glup

Q: What is your role with the volunteers at the Welcome Center?

Morgan: As an AmeriCorps it is my role to manage the volunteers, but they are so great that they really manage themselves! I just coordinate with them to ensure that shifts are filled at the Welcome Center and pass on any information that is important for them to know, like an attraction's hours changing, upcoming events, etc.

Q: How many volunteers are at the Welcome Center?

Morgan: 9 volunteers, 3 potential new volunteers, 14 board members who have served 610.5 hours since January 1st. P

Q: How do you recognize volunteers for their service?

Morgan: Every year in June we have a volunteer appreciation dinner where a volunteer or board member is awarded with a volunteer of the year award. The welcome center couldn't maintain the hours it does and serve visitors and the community as well as it does without our volunteers, we want them to know they are appreciated!

Q: Who was awarded the 2022 award?

Morgan: Paul Beardslee was awarded the 2022 volunteer of the year. Since last July, Paul has dedicated 266.5 hours at the Welcome Center. He has also been with the Welcome Center since it was established in 2006, volunteering with us for 16 years! Paul loves conversing with visitors and more than once, visitors have mentioned to us how friendly and helpful Paul was!



Paul Beardslee, Welcome Center Volunteer (right) is awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Elkins Depot Welcome Center by Ed Griesel, Welcome Center Board Member (left)

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - REACH OUT TO US!

WE'D LOVE TO CONNECT YOU WITH ONE OF OUR PARTNERS.

AmeriCorps Recruitment - Apply Today!

AFNHA AmeriCorps Positions



Conservation and Heritage positions for the 2022-2023 service year are OPEN! Some positions can be converted to half-time or 6 month positions based on the candidate needs and timeline. We continue recruiting until all slots are filled.

Visit appalachianforestnha.org/ameri-corps-positions for more details.

Contact Chrissy Hall, Program Manager at chrissyh@afnha.org with any questions.

AFNHA Seeking Communications Manager

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (AFNHA) is seeking a new Communications Manager 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.

EMAIL PHYLLISB@AFNHA.ORG TO APPLY

Host Site Applications



AmeriCorps sub-sponsor site assignments for 2022-2023 are being reviewed now. Any WV nonprofit or government partner who is interested in hosting a member but missed applying, please contact Chrissy to see if slots may still be available.



Follow Us On Facebook & Instagram!

