

MARCH 2024

# 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](http://afnha.org).



## Happy Women's History Month!

We have updated our list of educational resources about historic women in the AFNHA region. Learn more [on our website](#).

### Annual Report

Our 2023 Annual Report is here! Read our summary of programs and activities at <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/annual-reports>

### Congratulations!

Our outgoing Executive Director, Phyllis Baxter, continues to receive recognition for her work. Last week, she received Citizen of the Year at the Elkins-Randolph County Chamber's annual Dinner & Awards. New Executive Director Logan Smith accepted the award on her behalf.



# Now Hiring

AFNHA is seeking to immediately hire an AmeriCorps Program Manager to administer our AmeriCorps Program consisting of 30+/- AmeriCorps National Service members deployed across our 16 county region in WV.

We are also seeking 1-2 seasonal, hourly personnel to provide services to our organization as interviewers for National Visitor Use Monitoring in the Spring and Summer of 2024.

See full job descriptions at <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/employment>



# AmeriCorps Site Applications

Applications are now open to host an AmeriCorps Member in the 2024-25 service year for project-based positions that support asset improvement or educational stewardship related to environmental conservation, community development, and/or cultural heritage. Contact us at [afnha@afnha.org](mailto:afnha@afnha.org) stating your intent to apply, and we will follow up with the application. Applications will be due mid-April.

If you have not yet replied and are still interested, please email AFNHA back ASAP with the following information:

## INTENT TO APPLY

- Sub-sponsor organization name:
- Contact Name:
- Email:
- Phone:

## Type of Organization:

- Federal government
- State government
- County or city government
- 501(c)(3) non-profit
- Other incorporated non-profit
- Non-profit association or collaborative



# Public Programs

## **Appalachian Forest Discovery Center**

### **Save the Date: May 18**

Indigenous Appalachia event & exhibit opening, featuring presentations and artisans. We will host other events throughout the summer and fall. Contact us if you are doing your own program related to indigenous history/culture.

### **Museum Planning Meeting - Monday, March 18**

Tentative schedule:

9:30 am Darden Mill open for arrival.

10 to 1 -- Planning Charette -- Discussion will include:

- Brainstorming session

- Discussion of AFNHA Interpretive Themes

- Participants' Visions for the new AFDC exhibit

- Can't Miss Topics: Events, Personalities, Communities, Trends, Terms

- Tying it Together: How do we organize the story?

- Next steps

1 pm -- Lunch together for those able to stay, with continued discussion.

Zoom participation is available to those who can not attend in person. RSVP (to [phyllisb@afnha.org](mailto:phyllisb@afnha.org)) is appreciated but not required.

## **Pollinator Initiative**

### **Pollinator activities for kids**

We've compiled a collection of crafts, games, activities, and other resources to help kids learn about pollinators! Learn more at

<https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/kids>

We will be at the following community events with info and activities:

March 23 | Our Town Spring Expo | Seneca Mall | Elkins

April 20 | Earth Day Celebration | Elkins City Park

# Historic Building Survey

Do you own or live in a historic property? Are you a professional who upgrades or maintains residential or commercial properties in West Virginia or Maryland? We'd like you to take a brief anonymous survey about your experiences. Take the survey [HERE!](#)

Students from Penn State University are creating a comprehensive database on financial resources, energy-efficient technologies, and retrofits specifically tailored to old and historic buildings. Our goal is to provide our partners and residents with the necessary tools to make informed decisions about improving their properties' efficiency, comfortability, and sustainability while preserving their historical integrity.

The survey should take less than five minutes, and your input will help us understand the information you are most interested in to preserve and improve historic homes. Contact [gabstevi@live.com](mailto:gabstevi@live.com) with questions or for more information.



# Events

## Volunteer Opportunities

April 4 | Cleanup | Brooklyn Heights Preserve | Contact [geneva.brown@tnc.org](mailto:geneva.brown@tnc.org)  
April 11, 13, 24 | Tree Planting | Franklin | Contact [emma.grundon@usda.gov](mailto:emma.grundon@usda.gov)  
April 13 | Trail Cleanup | Allegheny Highlands Trail | Contact [madalainef@gmail.com](mailto:madalainef@gmail.com)  
April 17 | Tree Planting | Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge | Contact [geneva.brown@tnc.org](mailto:geneva.brown@tnc.org)

Do you have a volunteer opportunity you would like to share? Email us at [volunteer@afnha.org](mailto:volunteer@afnha.org)

## Appalachian Forest Grants Event

March 20 | [Woodland Heritage Lecture Series](#) | Kump House  
March 21 | [Art Opening: Lost Towns of the Mon](#) | Tygart Hotel

## Regional Events

March 16 | [Mountain State Maple Days](#)  
March 16 | [Maple Days Pop-Up](#) | Pendleton County Farmers Market  
March 16 | [Luck of the Irish 5K and Kids Race](#) | Hardy Co Health/Wellness Center  
March 22 | [Tygart Hotel Grand Opening](#) | Elkins  
March 22 | [Miss Spring Mountain Festival Pageant](#) | Landes Art Center  
March 22-23 | [WV Woods & Water Expo](#) | Summersville Arena  
March 23 | [Sourdough Bread workshop](#) | High Rocks  
March 23 | [Berkeley Springs Film Festival](#) | Cacapon State Park Resort  
March 30 | [Spring Downtown Market](#) | Stockert Youth & Community Center  
March 30 | [Beaver Walk](#) | Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
April 6 | [Lewisburg Chocolate Festival](#)  
April 6 | [Farmers Market](#) | Mountain Fresh Pavilion  
April 6 | [Allegany Photography Competition & Exhibition](#) | Allegany Arts Council  
April 8 | [Small Business Solutions for Barbour County](#) | 17 North Event Center  
April 13 | [Wildwater Weekend](#) | Baker's Island Recreation Area  
April 13 | [Spring Craft Show](#) | Arthurdale Heritage  
April 13 | [Fort Edwards Colonial Feast](#) | Capon Bridge Middle School  
April 21 | [Burnsville Lake Crappie Tournament Series](#)

## Regional News

2024 Opening Dates announced for [Monongahela National Forest Recreation Sites](#)

Burnsville Lake Marina, Bulltown Campground, and Riffle Run Campground are set to open April 12th

Berkeley Springs, Lewisburg, Frostburg, Cumberland, and others were nominated for USA Today's [10Best Readers' Choice Awards](#)

Several regional organizations awarded [Folk and Traditional Arts Experiences Grants](#) from Mid Atlantic Arts



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