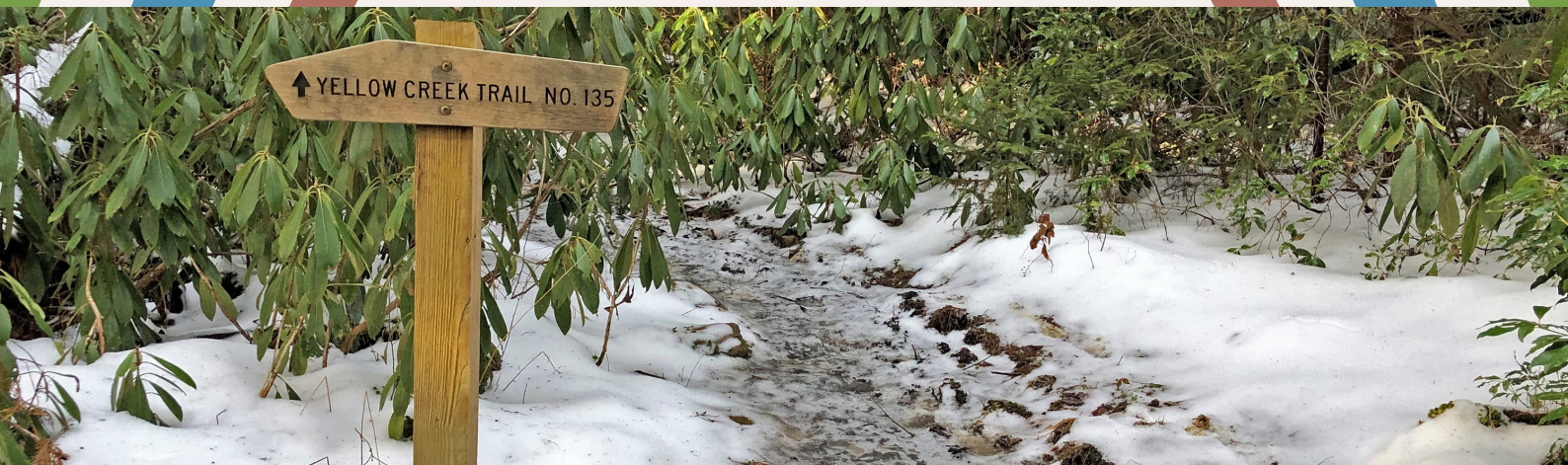


NOVEMBER 2021

# 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) or contact Lukas Ray at [lukas@afnha.org](mailto:lukas@afnha.org) for more information



## Management Planning Update



Thank you all so much for the last two years! From participating in any or all planning meetings, task group meetings, to our exchange camp, we heard all your voices and opinions! Our consultant team now has the task to construct the actual Management Plan.

But the job isn't done just yet..... when the plan is fully written we will seek more public comment and feedback before the final draft is sent to the NPS. Be on the lookout for that. But thank you! We couldn't have gotten this far without YOU!

Remember, you can always contact us at **[planning@afnha.org](http://planning@afnha.org)** with any questions on upcoming meetings and steps.



# We still have OPEN slots for the 2021-2022 AmeriCorps Term!



**AmeriCorps**  
West Virginia



AFNHA AmeriCorps has been awarded a competitive AmeriCorps grant for 34 members for the 2021-2022 term, plus an additional 8 positions just awarded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. In addition, the ARPA funding will raise member stipends to \$16,000 a year. This gives us a total program of 42 member positions, our largest ever. Because these additional funds were just awarded, we are still recruiting for a number of positions. While the new term starts September 8, we will continue recruiting through the fall until all positions are filled.

## Open Conservation Position

2 OPEN positions with the Monongahela National Forest!



- **Heritage Program (1 position):** The primary objectives for the position will be enhancement programs for heritage resources with emphasis on education and outreach.
- **Public Affairs (1 position):** Works to expand social media outreach efforts and conservation education programs Forest-wide. There will be opportunities to learn new skills or hone existing skills.

1 OPEN position with AFNHA



- **Recreation Tourism Associate:** This member will have lead on developing a Hiking Challenge or similar package to encourage hiking experiences, as well as developing content and implementing additional outdoor experience or eco-tourism tour products, story maps, or packages.



## 1 OPEN positions Appalachian Headwaters


The logo for Appalachian Headwaters, featuring the words "APPALACHIAN HEADWATERS" in white, uppercase letters on a black rectangular background.

- **Appalachian Conservation Office** : The position will be assisting our Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation and Partnership for Fish and Wildlife Programs that work with private landowners to conserve habitat for endangered species.


A decorative border consisting of a row of stylized trees in various colors (green, yellow, orange, red) and sizes, spanning the width of the page.

## Open Heritage and Community Development Positions


### 1 OPEN position Hardy County CVB-Lost River State Park

- 
- The logo for Hardy County, West Virginia, featuring a stylized 'H' with a green leaf and the text "HARDY COUNTY WEST VIRGINIA™" below it.
- The AmeriCorps member will lead Lost River Trails Coalition (LRTC) and volunteers in trail repair and maintenance work, coordinate with the members of Lost River State Park (LRSP) and LRTC to maintain a schedule of trail workdays, develop a volunteer recruitment and retention plan, train volunteers in trail building skills, and increase the visibility of the project within the community.


### 1 OPEN position with Artspring and Alpine Festival

- 
- The Artspring logo, featuring a green sprout growing from a globe with the text "Artspring A Steward of Tucker Co. W.Va." below it.
- **Alpine Festival:** The member will provide support in maintaining the growth and integrity of the events, and assisting with the Alpine Festival, WV Governor's Cup Ski Race, Celebrations of the Arts (a FREE outdoor concert by the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra), and the Leaf Peepers Festival.

### 1 OPEN position with Cass Scenic Railroad State Park

- 
- The logo for Cass Scenic Railroad, featuring a yellow circular border with the text "SCENIC CASS RAILROAD" and a central image of a train on tracks with trees.
- **Archival work:** Member duties will include developing and implementing an interpretive plan for the period/museum house, organizing the period house and displays, improving collections management, exhibit displays, and labeling and logging interpretation for the exhibit.

### 1 OPEN position with Mineral County CVB

- 
- The logo for Mineral County, West Virginia Tourism, featuring a green square with a stylized mountain range and the text "Mineral County West Virginia Tourism" below it.
- This member will complete historical projects related to 2 sites, gather volunteers for historical organizations, and conduct research for specific sites. Sites include Ashby's Fort Museum, Traveler's Rest, and the Historical Society.



## 1 OPEN Position with the Richwood Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB

- The Richwood Chamber of Commerce and CVB support business and tourism in the Richwood community through festivals, meetings, activities, etc. Richwood is the kind of small town that once you visit you feel all the comforts of home and the town becomes a part of you forever

## 1 OPEN Position shared with the Upshur Historical Society and the Randolph County Museum.



- **RCM:** The member will help with capacity building, communications including newsletters and the website, and will assist summer visitors at the museum, including substantial weekend hours during the season.
- **UCHS:** The major projects will be to work with established digital/electronic systems for collections management cataloging and processing artifacts into PastPerfect. The member will work with UCHS research files and original sources to compile content for the Upshur County Digital Encyclopedia project, and will assist with gathering other data to be included on this digital system.



## 1 OPEN Position shared with 4-H Camp Pioneer and the Kump Education Center



- **4-H Camp Pioneer:** Member will work to preserve historical documents related to 4-H camping, 4-H club work and other programs related to the 4-H program. An emphasis will be put on collecting oral histories, as well as archiving 4-H memorabilia from community members.
- **Kump:** The coordinator will develop opportunities to improve teacher skills in using educational technology, student exploration of environmental conditions, and community awareness of priorities for building a brighter future.



Contact Chrissy Hall, Program Manager at [chrissyh@afnha.org](mailto:chrissyh@afnha.org) with any questions on our AmeriCorps program.





# Out of the Woods

*Enriching Your Maple Business*

A Free Webinar Series



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



PennState  
College of  
Agricultural Sciences

Future Generations University's yearlong webinar series, "Out of the Woods: Enriching your Maple Business." This webinar series will cover everything from tree science and woodlot management to marketing and record-keeping. Stay tuned for more information!

Click [HERE](#) to sign up!



Join the Future Generations University Appalachian

Team for FREE, in-person workshops this

December! There are four dates and locations for this workshop. All workshops will start at 9am.

Please choose the one you are planning on attending.

Dec. 4, 2021

Steyer Brother's Maple  
Oakland, MD

Dec. 5, 2021

Bower's Maple  
Upper Tract, WV



## Quality Tapping & Backyard Mapling Workshops

IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS: DECEMBER 2021

Dec. 18, 2021

Ronk Family Farm  
Alum Creek, WV

Dec. 19, 2021

Tom's Creek Family Farm  
Wayne, WV

Future Generations University

Click [HERE](#) to sign up!





# MUSINGS ON THE ROCKS: TWO MONTHS AT SENECA



By: Naomi Martin

I'm currently serving a split position between the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center in the Cheat-Potomac ranger district, and the Greenbrier ranger district with AFNHA. It's taken me the two-ish months since I arrived on Labor Day evening in West Virginia to start to get a sense of what this position is, really. But though I feel my job description is something I'm still trying to grow into and maximize for my sites (I'm quite fond of both ranger districts and their respective counties already,) from the first time I tumbled down the road into the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia, I've had a very strong sense of the character of this place, and that there are things she has to teach me.



**[Click HERE](#)** to read the rest of Naomi's story on the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center and Greenbrier Ranger District!

Follow AFNHA on Facebook and Instagram!

