

NOVEMBER 2020

# GROWTH RINGS

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area News

WINTER IS COMING



Picture by Kristina Handy, 2012

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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).

## Management Planning Update!

Our next Management Planning meeting will be the first gathering of the Asset Stewardship and Enhancement Task Group. Join **us on November 16 at 2pm** to find out more about this committee. This meeting will be hosted on Zoom!

This group will discuss the stewardship and enhancement of heritage assets (including historic, cultural, and natural resources and assets) in the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area.

The first meeting will discuss how we collect information on the heritage asset inventory and identify existing plans and information related to heritage assets. The meeting will also address the next step of dividing into subcommittees focused on various asset types, which will then meet to develop initial ideas on heritage asset strategies. Subcommittees may include Natural Resource Conservation, Outdoor Recreation, Historic Preservation / Downtown Revitalization, and Arts / Cultural / Historic Resources. (In addition, issues related to Education/ Interpretation and Tourism/Marketing will be addressed by the Interpretation and Visitor Experience Task Group.)

**[Click Here to Pre-Register for the Zoom Link!](#)**

If you are interested or have information to share about historic, cultural, or natural resources, assets, and stewardship issues for AFNHA, we hope you will participate in this group.



# AmeriCorps Story

## Projects from the Beverly Heritage Center

### A Review



By: Adam Brinson, serving with BHC

Since February of 2020, I have been serving with the Beverly Heritage Center. In that time, I have worked in the collections department, with most of my time spent assessing and cataloging documents. While this work is highly important to the goals of the BHC and there have been genuinely interesting moments and items during it all, it unfortunately does not make for the most exciting reading. Instead, I will write about some of the current projects at the BHC that I have been involved in recently.

The first project I have contributed to is the development of new exhibit space at the BHC. At present, the front façade of the Hill Building, a section of the Heritage Center, is unusable due to structural damage.

The goal of this project is to both fix the space in question and to develop new exhibits for the space. These exhibits would allow us to both always have exhibits available to the public and create interest and bring new visitors into the museum. The first step was securing grant funding. I wrote a grant application for the Tucker Community Foundation while Jessica Black, a fellow AFNHA servicemember at the BHC, applied for a similar grant from the Snowshoe Foundation. We are currently waiting for a response from these organizations. Once we receive word from these groups, Jessica and I will work toward developing the exhibit materials that will occupy the restored façade space. Assuming everything goes to plan, these exhibits will be available by next spring.

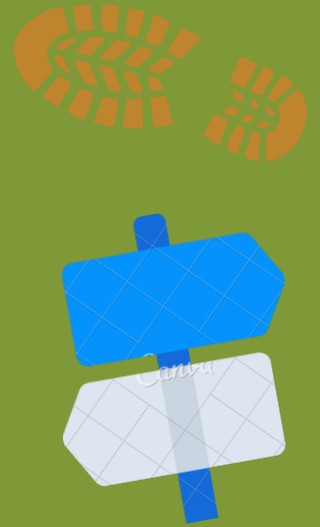
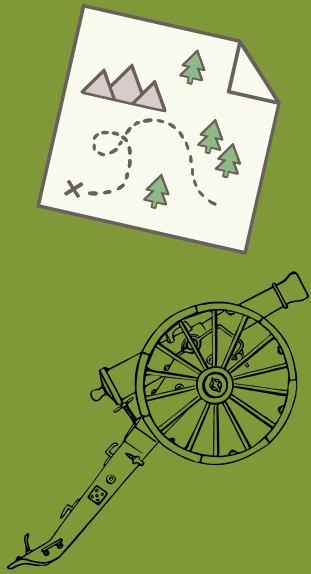


The second project, and the one that I am more closely involved in, is the development of hiking trails on Rich Mountain Battlefield. One of our longtime concerns about the site is the lack of things to do there. At present, when one arrives at the battlefield, they spend 20 minutes looking around and then leave. Hiking trails at the site will increase attendance, particularly from outside of our usual "Civil War Buff" demographic, and visitor engagement with the site. To start my work on this project, I hiked along the proposed route, taking notes on what would need to be done to make the trail easily accessible to the public. Then realizing that this project would need a decent number of people working on it, I reached out to local Boy Scout troops to see if any of their members would be interested in assisting with the project.



# AmeriCorps Story Continued

As an Eagle Scout, it was nice to be able to pull on my background for this project. One troop expressed interest in the project, but due to complications from COVID-19, they were unable to assist with the then upcoming workday. Hopefully, they will be able to assist with trail in the future. On October 10, I lead a team made-up of other AFNHA servicemembers and BHC volunteers in brush-clearing and trash pickup along a major section of the trail. The workday proved successful, with that section of trail being almost completely cleared of plant growth, fallen logs, and other obstacles. While the project is currently mostly on hold during the winter season, we will be picking it back up come springtime. There is still much to do to make the trail ready, including further brush clearing, lining, mulching, and the development of signage, both directional and interpretative. However, I am confident that we will be able to officially open it by June 2021



## Upcoming Events

Weekend with Santa  
At The Greenbrier  
White Sulphur Springs, WV  
12/4/20-12/6/20, 11AM-2PM  
304-536-1110

Enjoy the jolly old elf himself bringing a twinkle to your child's eyes at The Greenbrier! There's nothing like the holiday season at America's Resort and the first 3 weekends in December will be chock full of holiday delights from fireside story time to ornaments and gingerbread house workshops to family bingo and afternoon tea with the Sugar Plum Fairies. And of course, there will be beautiful tree lighting ceremonies and photos with Santa!

Hometown Christmas  
Celebration  
Petersburg, WV  
12/05/2020, 4PM-9PM  
304-257-4944

The City of Petersburg invites you to Hometown Christmas! Celebrate the season with friends and family for a real Petersburg tradition. Festivities begin in the park at 4:00 p.m. for the Polar Plunge and horse-drawn sleigh rides, followed by: decoration and lighting of the tree with Santa, free hot chocolate, cookies, and popcorn, an opportunity to make smores around the bonfire, Christmas caroling, games, food vendors, and wrapped up with a drive-in movie! Each child will go home with a small gift from Santa as well. Join us in the town park for a true, Hometown Christmas.



# All our leaves are gone :( Enjoy these Fall pictures from our heritage area this fall!



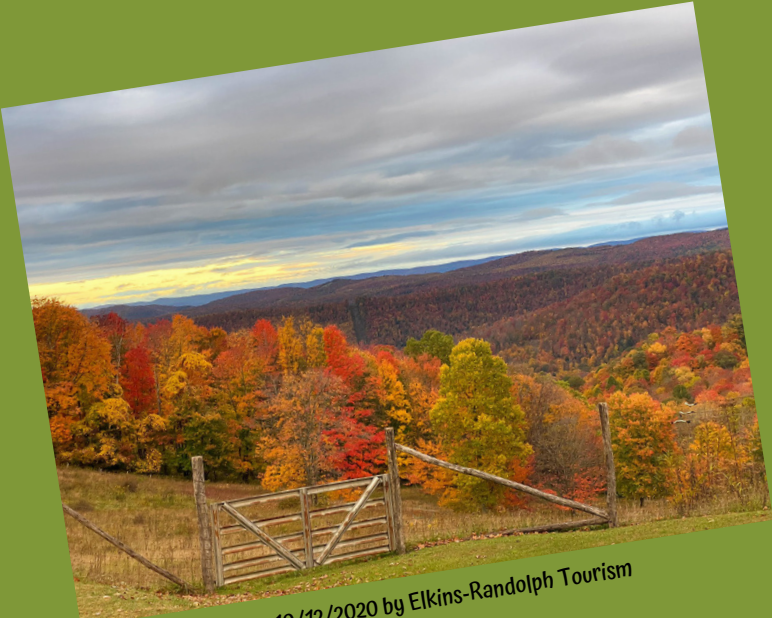
Taken 9/30/2020 by Elkins-Randolph Tourism



Taken 11/10/2020 by Lukas Ray



Taken 10/20/2020 by Lukas Ray



Taken 10/12/2020 by Elkins-Randolph Tourism



Taken 10/09/2020 by Lukas Ray