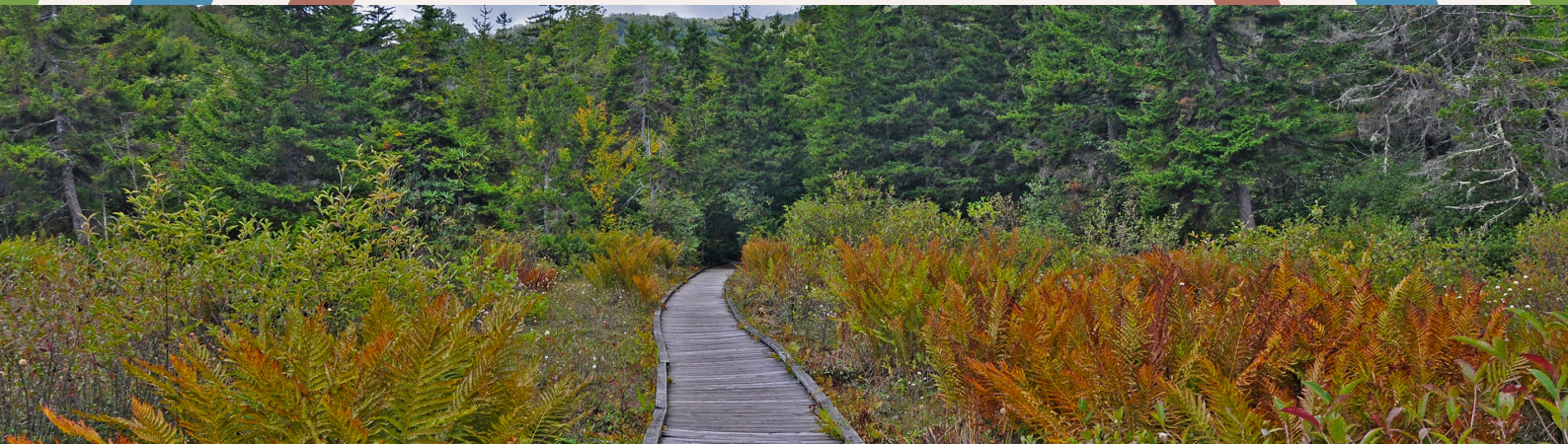


SEPTEMBER 2021

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 or contact Lukas Ray at lukas@afnha.org for more information



Management Planning Update

Upcoming Dates:

- Stewardship and Enhancement Task Group
 - Meeting Sept. 20th, 1pm-3pm, virtual.
- Interpretation and Visitor Experience Task Group
 - Meeting Sept. 27th, 1pm-3pm, virtual.
- Organization Structure and Management Task Group
 - Meeting TBD, stay tuned! Will meet in early Nov.

AFNHA is planning on hosting two virtual, public meetings the week of November 1st. We had planned on hosting public meetings in Lewisburg, WV, Buckhannon, WV, and Cumberland, MD, but as the rise in COVID-19 numbers continues, we have made the decision to take these virtual. Please stay tuned for more details on these public meetings! They will be hosted on Monday, November 1st in the evening and Tuesday, November 2nd in the early afternoon. Official times and zoom registration links are coming! These meetings will focus on finalizing recommendations for the Management Plan for the consultant team.

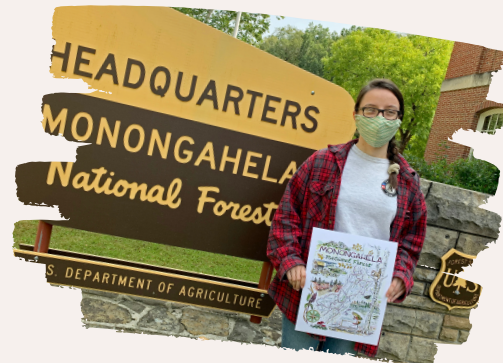
You can always contact us at planning@afnha.org with any questions on upcoming meetings and steps.



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

5 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.
- **Fire/GIS (1 position):** Works to develop and present fire prevention educational programs to local kids with the help of seasoned wildland firefighters. Utilize GIS skills to help map and analyze wildfires and prescribed burns.
- **MonForest Towns Partnership (2 positions):** These dynamic positions will help provide exposure to the Forest Service and rural Appalachian communities. Assignments are designed to provide experience in partnership and community development for Mon Towns, an exciting collaborative of ten communities.



2 OPEN positions with US Fish and Wildlife Service



- **Appalachian Conservation Office (1 position):** 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.
- **Davis Field Office (1 position):** This position will assist the Partnership for Fish and Wildlife and Endangered Species Programs with habitat conservation activities, and other education and outreach events.

1 OPEN position with AFNHA



- Recreation Tourism Associate (1 position): 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.

Open Heritage and Community Development Positions

1 OPEN position with Artspring and Alpine Festival



- 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



- 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 Elkins Main Street

- This member will assist and support Elkins Main Street's mission "to grow the vibrant downtown experience and environment" to benefit the Elkins community. The program activities are aligned with the National MainStreet Center's 4-point approach focusing on Design, Economic Vitality, Organization, and Promotion.



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 with any questions on our AmeriCorps program.



Pollinator Gardens: Lessons and Successes

By: Dayla Woller



Here are a few pollinator gardens where we've highlighted what went well and what could have gone better!

There are pollinator gardens and habitat found throughout the Appalachian Forest region. These gardens vary in size, in preparation method and in maintenance strategy. We've chosen to highlight a few so that, if you ever choose to embark on your own pollinator space, you have the wisdom of those that have come before you!



Click [HERE](#) to read reviews on pollinator gardens found at the The Division of Natural Resources in Elkins, the Greenbrier Ranger District National Forest office, the Cranberry Nature Center, and the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center!

