

2008 Fall Stakeholders Meeting

October 30 – November 1

Romney, Hampshire County

FOCUS ON NATURE TOURISM AND CONSERVATION

Thursday, Oct 30 or

Saturday Nov 1 — Optional Activities

Ride the historic **Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad**, one of America's most beautiful train rides. Enjoy a 3-hour narrated excursion through a tranquil and pristine mountain valley, including "The Trough," a spectacular narrow mountain valley along the South Branch of the Potomac.

Above you the high mountain walls and thick forest help keep the secret of the American Bald Eagle. These majestic birds soar high above in their natural habitat, undisturbed by the low rumblings of the occasional train and the passengers who have come for a sighting. 11:30 am each day, reservations required. You must make your own reservations for the train. (see box at right)

Ice Mountain, along the North River just north of North River Mills, contains a set of stone chimneys called "Raven Rocks" and a large talis. At the base of the talis is an area where small caves hold ice most of the year. There are flowers growing at the base of the talis that are found only in areas in New York state and northward. The mountain is a unique ecosystem for a middle Atlantic state. This Nature Conservancy site is open only for guided tours with a docent. If you are interested in an Ice Mountain tour on Thursday or Saturday, RSVP by Friday, October 24 and we will arrange a tour if we have a group.



You must make your own reservations for the train. If you do plan to be there Thursday, please let us know in advance, and we'll help the AFHA attendees find each other for train ride, touring, and/or dinner
See train website at: www.potomaceagle.info

RSVP

Friday, Oct 31 —

Meet at the Bottling Works Visitor Center in Romney. 426 E Main / Rt 50. It is a brick building with signs to visitor center, across from WV School for Deaf & Blind, 1 block east of McDonalds

- 9:00am** Board meeting. Only Board members are expected at this time, but Council members and Stakeholders are welcome to sit in.
- 10:30am** Stakeholders meeting -- Introductions, local welcome, progress reports, new Ameri-Corps team, etc.
- 11:30am** Brief Council meeting, fall annual elections
- 11:45am** lunch (provided – donation requested to cover cost)
- 12:15pm** panel discussion on nature and eco-tourism, including the Hampshire County experience
- 1:30pm** speaker, non-native invasive species and how we can help deal with this problem
- 2:30pm** adjourn for tours

Group tour following – tentatively Fort Mill Ridge and Wildlife Management Area

LODGING

South Branch Inn. Rates 2 people \$81.00 + tax. Route 50 East, Romney, adjacent to a shopping center and restaurants 4 miles from downtown historic Romney. Continental breakfast and free high speed internet. 304 822 2444 / 866-492-3122 toll-free

Koolwink Motel, Rt 50 East, 304 822 3595, \$63+ tax 2 queen size beds, wireless internet

Hampshire House 1884 B&B, 165 North Grafton St., Romney. 5 guest rooms and suites, some w/fireplaces in a brick Victorian country house built in 1884 and furnished with Victorian antiques. 304.822.7171 or 888.806.1131 HH1884@aol.com

RSVP

Please let us know you plan to attend, and whether Friday only or for additional tours. This will help us plan meal count and arrange tours. Watch AFHA web site for updates. RSVP to: phyllisb@meer.net, 304-636-6182

RSVP