

GROWTH RINGS



Appalachian Forest Heritage Area Newsletter

PO Box 1206, Elkins WV 26241

304-636-2467

www.appalachianforest.us

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National Forest Foundation Grant

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area has been awarded a Community Assistance Program Continuation grant from the National Forest Foundation to assist with capacity building over the next two years. The \$15,000 grant can be used for organizational assistance, staff support, and hands-on projects. Under this grant, AFHA will be assisting with on the ground conservation projects on the Monongahela National Forest, and will move forward with interpretive planning as well.

AFHA previously received a \$15,000 CAP grant for start-up assistance for our organization. This Continuation Grant is in recognition of our success in the first round and continuing growth needs.

The National Forest Foundation is the non-profit support group for our National Forests. The CAP grants are to promote the creation of locally-based, collaborative natural resource partnerships which seek to build ecological, social and economic sustainability. The program will support new non-profit organizations in need of start-up funds for capacity building that intend to proactively and inclusively engage the local community in forest management and conservation issues on and around National Forests.

Stakeholders Donate Funds

AFHA thanks the 15 donors who have donated over \$2075 in response to our first ever fundraising appeal letter. Individual donations ran from \$10 to \$1000. The letters to our mailing list were personalized with notes from our board members and staff.

AFHA continues our policy of making newsletters, meetings, and other benefits available to all stakeholders -- everyone who expresses interest. We are asking for donations not as a membership, but as an expression of support from those who are committed to the project and able to help. Funds will be used to support the organization, and to match potential government grants.

Grant for Forestry Tours

The AFHA has been awarded \$1000 from the Society of American Foresters (SAF) "Foresters Fund" to coordinate 4 educational forest tours in the northern part of the AFHA. One mission of the SAF is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry. These tours will be led by long-time partners of the AFHA and SAF members Francis Zumbrun, John Denning, Barbara Bre shock, Bob Beanblossom, and Dave McGill.

Tours will be held later this spring at the Green Ridge and Potomac-Garrett State Forests in Maryland and the Kumbrabow State Forests in West Virginia. Participants will view wildlife enhancement, recreation, and timber activities on these forests. One special feature on the Potomac-Garrett State Forest is the new "Kindness Demonstration Area" that has interpretive signs developed as part of an AFHA minigrant.

More information will be forthcoming as to the dates and times of these workshops. Tour details will be posted on the AFHA web site when available, or call AFHA at 304-636-6182.

National Heritage Area Designation Update

Sen. John D. Rockefeller has agreed to sponsor a bill in the Senate designating the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area. Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland as agreed to co-sponsor. We expect the other Senators to also co-sponsor once we have approval of our Feasibility Study from the National Park Service.

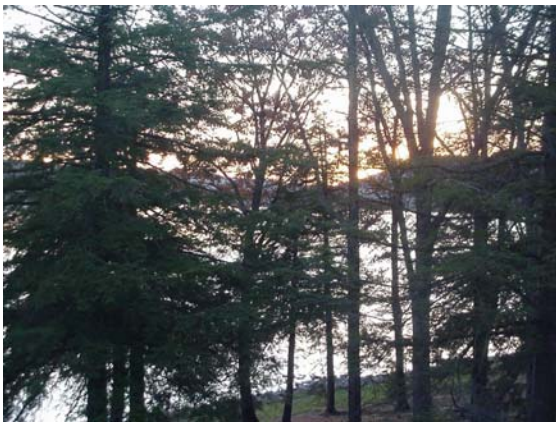
The National Park Service has approved most of our Feasibility Study, but expressed concern whether we would be able to match Federal funds. Our initial support letters were expressing support for the project, not expressing commitment of resources. New letters are requested now showing commitment or expectation of time, donated services or materials, or cash match for future Federal funds. Please send or arrange for letters if you can. For details see our web page under "participate".

Hellos and Goodbyes

Goodbye with thanks to Eleanor Palko, who has served on the AFHA board and as Treasurer, then Vice-President, of the organization. Eleanor has moved to Portland, Oregon, where her children and grandchildren live. She emails that she is settling in well there – and I'm sure she's looking for new projects to get involved with!

Thanks also to our VISTA for the last year, Coral Totten, who completed her VISTA service in January. Coral is staying involved with AFHA as a volunteer, helping us with tasks like this newsletter, and in transitioning to a new VISTA. Coral is job hunting in the Clarksburg area, and would appreciate it if anyone has leads for her.

Welcome to Tina Ralston, our new VISTA who will start officially in mid-April. Tina is an Elkins resident who chose to retire here about three years ago. She has worked as a Peace Corps worker in Fiji, as well as for a college and Indian tribe in Florida. Her previous experience includes work with non-profit groups, building collaborations, grant projects, and micro-enterprise development. She is looking forward to learning more from us about heritage tourism development and forestry!



Upcoming Events Sampler

Please let us know of upcoming events, festivals or important meetings in your area - this is your opportunity for free advertising to a willing audience. Here are some upcoming events in AFHA:

Garrett State Forest dedication ceremony and opening of the Kindness Forestry Demonstration Area will be held on April 10th, at 2:00 p.m. Interpretation of the Demonstration Area was aided by an AFHA minigrant. For more information contact John Denning at JDenning@dnr.state.md.us

Lewisburg Chocolate Festival, April 13-15 downtown Lewisburg. Events centered on the chocolate theme including musical performances, chocolate

themed dinner and a bake-off.

www.lewisburgchocolatefestival.com/

Randolph County International Ramp Cook-off and Festival, Elkins, April 27- 29, Elkins City Park
www.randolphcountywv.com

Beverly Heritage Center Open House, April 29. Celebrate Phase II of this ambitious project in Historic Beverly. www.historicbeverly.org

Webster County Nature Tour, May 6-8, Camp Caesar, Webster County. This event sponsored by the Webster Springs Garden Club features walking and driving tours, wildflower walks, evening entertainment, lodging and meals.
www.websterwv.com/events.html

12th Annual WV Timber & Wood Products Show, May 11th & 12th. The Show is held at Holly Gray Park, near Flatwoods, in Braxton County, and features numerous forestry-related exhibits, wood chopping contest, logger contests (chainsaw, truck, loader, skidder), horse logging demonstrations, bow shoot contest, turkey call contest, gun show, and handmade crafts. For more information contact the WVForestry Association. Office toll-free 1-888-372-WOOD(9663).

Preservation Works Conference, May 17 - 19, Wheeling, annual conference of Preservation Alliance of West Virginia with industrial heritage theme. www.pawv.org

The 145th Anniversary of The Battle of Lewisburg, May 18 - 20, 2007. An event-filled weekend of living history and reenactment.
www.battleoflewisburg.org

Webster County Woodchopping Festival, May 24-27, Southern U.S. World Championship Woodchopper contest, many festival activities.
www.woodchoppingfestival.com

Darden Mill Reception, June 3, tour and fundraising reception to raise matching funds for continued work on the Darden Mill, which when finished will house the AFHA Discovery Center.
www.c-hopewv.org

Lemuel Chenoweth Days, June 23-24, Beverly. Living history and activities celebrating famed carpenter and bridgebuilder, featuring traditional wood and textile skills. www.historicbeverly.org

Rich Mountain Reenactment, July 13 - 15. Battle reenactment weekend and memorial march at Civil War Site outside Beverly. www.richmountain.org

Laurel Hill Reenactment, July 20-22, Belington.
www.battleoflaurelhill.org

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area

Spring Stakeholders Meeting April 26 - 27, 2007 Pendleton County, West Virginia

Please RSVP if you plan to attend – see below.

Thursday April 26th

1:00 PM	Meet at Pendleton County Chamber Office
1:30 PM	Woodline Factory Tour
3:00 PM	Carpool to Kaiser Mill at Sugar Grove.
6:30 PM	Board dinner and meeting

Friday April 27th

	Highlands Golf Course
9:30 AM	Introductions and Updates
10:00 AM	Program
12:00 PM	Luncheon (approx \$10 each)
1:00 PM	Interest Group Meetings
2:30 PM	Council Meeting
3:00 PM	Board Meeting



Tour Activities:

Meet for Thursday afternoon tour at the Pendleton County Chamber Office, corner of Rt 33 and Rt 220 in Franklin. It is on the right hand side of Main Street, at stop light. We will carpool from here. Anyone who might want to join the tour at a later stop, please RSVP and we will get you directions and rendezvous information.

Woodline Factory Tour – Woodline manufactures unfinished furniture, shelves, and other small furniture items for major companies.

Kaiser Mill at Sugar Grove is an outstanding example of a nineteenth century historic water mill. The company closed in 1968, complete with machinery and office intact. This is a rare opportunity to visit a well-preserved, privately-owned site.

Board Meeting: The AFHA Board will meet over dinner Thursday evening at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Brandywine. We will start approximately 6:30, depending on the length of the tour. Other AFHA stakeholders are welcome to have dinner here at a different table, or at other restaurants in the area.

Friday Stakeholders and Council Meeting at Highlands Golf Club, between Franklin and Brandywine. The entrance to the Highlands Golf Club is located on the east side of Troublesome Valley Road, 1-2 miles north of the intersection with US Rt. 33, five miles east of Franklin, West Virginia. Phone 304-358-2261.

Lodging:

Lone Pine Lodging on US 33 in Brandywine, \$60 for 2 or 3 bedroom furnished house 304-249-5700

Star Hotel in Franklin, 1 bed \$65, 2 bed \$75, 304-358-3580

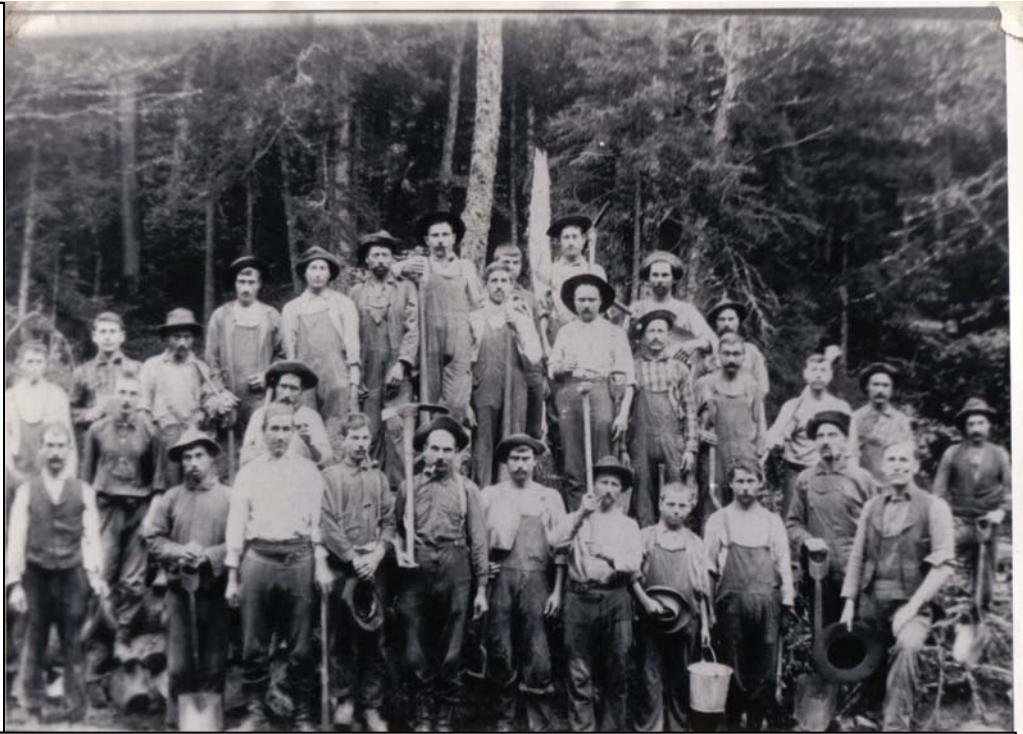
Franklin Inn, 1 bed \$40, 2 beds \$45; 304-358-2118

RSVP: If you are planning to attend any portion of the meeting, please RSVP so that we will have count for meals and tours, and can send you updates of any last minute information. We need to give a lunch count by 4/20, so please try to RSVP by that date. You are still welcome even without RSVP, but you'll take your chances on enough food. Council and Board members please confirm your attendance or send proxy for our quorum count.

Send RSVP by email to afha@appalachianforest.us or call 636-6182.

Growth Rings is the periodic newsletter of the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc., in partnership with West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Extension Services.

Our mission is to work locally to conserve, develop, interpret, and promote a regional network of forest-based resources and experiences in the highlands of West Virginia and Maryland for the enjoyment and appreciation of residents and visitors in order to enhance economic and community development.



For more information about AFHA, for address corrections or additions, or to be added to our email announcement list, please contact:

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