

APRIL 2024

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.



Save the Dates!

We are hard at work planning this year's events and annual meetings. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more details to be announced.

June 18th: Stakeholder Meeting | Colonial Arts Center | Buckhannon

May 18th: Appalachian Forest Discovery Center exhibit opening. Read more about our upcoming programming on the next page.

August 5th: Tourism Summit | Romney



Penny Miller and Joe Stahlman are just a few of the presenters for our May 18 event.

Indigenous Voices in Appalachia

Our newest interpretive program will kick off with the opening of our new rotating exhibit "Creating Home: Indigenous Roots and Connections in the Appalachian Forest". The exhibit will be open to the public May through October at the Appalachian Forest Discovery Center (Darden Mill, 101 Railroad Ave, Elkins).

We will celebrate with a free Exhibit Opening Event on May 18 featuring a Seneca Artisans Showcase.

Tentative Schedule:

9:30 - 5:30 Artisans showcase with vendor tables

Special demonstrations throughout the day:

9:30 Penny Minner - Split Black Ash Baskets

10:45 Bernadette Scott - Corn as Art

12:00 Chef Lorinda Johns - Three Sisters Fritters

1:15 Mary Jacobs - Haudenosaunee Clothing From Coverings to Fashion

2:30 Samantha Jacobs - Moccasin Making

4:00 Cliff Redeye - Leatherwork

(Leatherwork class Sunday, by reservation)

5:30 Exhibit Opening Address, Joe Stahlman

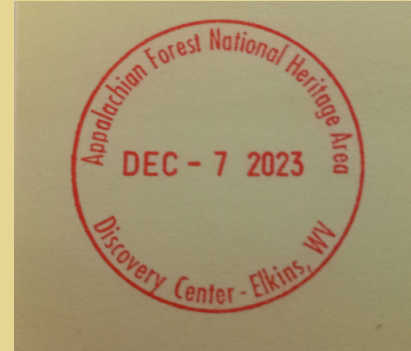
Followed by Supper featuring Appalachian Foods with Native Influence
(supper by donation, RSVP encouraged)

Join us during the summer and fall of 2024 for more Native exhibits and programs across AFNHA. Watch our website and newsletter for more info. Contact us if you are doing your own programming related to indigenous history or culture.

Appalachian Forest Discovery Center

Get your NPS Passport Stamped!

As a member of the National Heritage Area system we have an official cancellation stamp and can stamp your National Park Service passport book during our open season (May-October).



Docents wanted

We are looking for volunteers to serve as docents and help us interact with visitors at our museum. Docents are volunteers who enjoy spending their free time at museums, sharing their knowledge with young and old. The most important qualities needed are a love of history, people, storytelling, and learning, as well as the ability to commit time to both the training and welcoming visitors to our site. If interested, contact discovery@afnha.org.

Exhibit Redesign

Last month we held a museum redesign planning meeting. Thanks to our partners who attended! Now our consultant team will begin drafting our new thematic documents.



America250 in the Appalachian Forest

Let's spend some time thinking about the organisms that have stood tall for well over 250 years. That's right- we're talking about trees. There are some trees in our region that have existed for over 250 years or are descendants of trees that play a role in history - from the Pringle Tree in Buckhannon to Cathedral State Park.

Read our latest America250 story [HERE!](#)



We are always taking submissions! Does your community have a unique story? Does your organization have an exhibit or project that tells the importance of a person or place in our region? Submit a story or learn more [on our website](#).

Events

Appalachian Forest Grants Event

April 17 | Woodland Heritage Lecture Series | Kump House

Volunteer Opportunities

April 17&19 | Tree Planting | Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge | Contact geneva.brown@tnc.org

April 24 | Tree Planting | Franklin | Contact emma.grundon@usda.gov

April 30-May 2 | 4th Grade Outdoor Days | Stuart Park | valerie.wonderandgrow@gmail.com

Regional Events

April 19 | Spring the Trail: an Allegheny Trail Event | Albright

April 20 | Wildflower & Ramps Festival | Yew Mountain Center

April 26 | Philippi Art Stroll

April 26-28 | Wills Creek Museum Grand Opening | Cumberland

April 27 | Ramps & Rail Festival | Elkins

April 27 | Grant County Schools Art Show | Petersburg

April 27 | Uniquely West Virginia Wine and Food Festival | Berkeley Springs

April 27 | Interpretive Group Hike | Arbuckle's Fort Preserve

May 2-4 | Gassaway Food Truck Festival

May 3-4 | WV Trout Festival | Franklin

May 3-5 | Webster County Nature Tour

May 4 | Lost River Trail Run | Lost River State Park

May 11 | North River Mills Day

May 11 | Mountain Lake Equine Association Open Show | Nicholas Co.

Veterans Memorial Park

May 11-19 | WV Strawberry Festival | Buckhannon

May 15-18 | Grantsville National Road Festival



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