

JANUARY 2022

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.

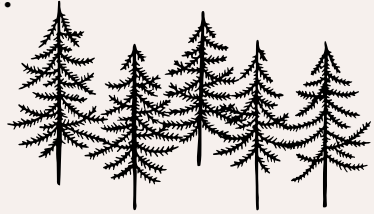
To learn more about us and the work we do, including our AmeriCorps program, visit afnha.org or contact Lukas Ray at lukas@afnha.org for more information



AFNHA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

AFNHA announced last month a new Tourism Development Grant available to governmental or non-profit organizations to enhance or create new tourist experience opportunities, network visitor opportunities together to create a larger attraction, and/or address challenges, such as from the COVID-19 pandemic, accessibility, or increasing the diversity of the stories told and/or the audience.

[Click Here for Info!](#)



Please follow the link to our website for the grant application and more information on how to apply. Email us at afnha@afnha.org with questions.

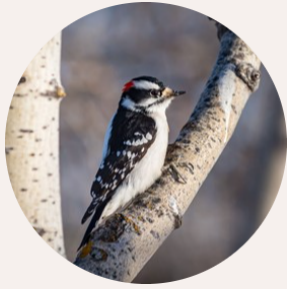


Grant requests can be from \$1000 up to \$5000. Recipients are expected to provide a local match (cash or in-kind) equal to 50% of the amount received.

Applications are due by March 1, 2022.

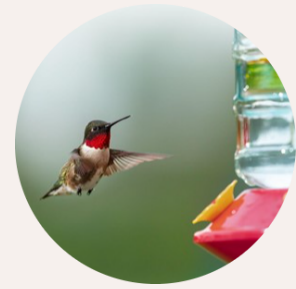
West Virginia Birds!

By: Mallory Miles



Explore!

Canva



There are plenty of reasons to look forward to spring in West Virginia: apple blossoms, waterfalls rich with snowmelt, baby lambs. If you pay close attention to the trees and bushes around you, you might find another reason to love spring hidden in plain sight. Bird nests!

Many of West Virginia's birds, both residents and migrants, choose their mates, build their nests, and raise their young during the spring. You can watch the whole drama unfold as the days warm up and the flowers open.

You just have to know what to look for!

To get you started, we've prepared a list of eight birds who nest in West Virginia around this time of year. Each nest is special in its own way, so this spring, try to see as many of them as possible!



AmeriCorps Stories!



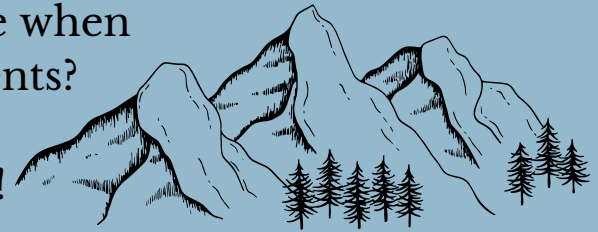
AmeriCorps
West Virginia

More Than a School - Collective Memories from Bolling High School Alumni By: Arabeth Balasko

What do you remember about your early school experiences? Can you recall the exact details of your classroom's layout? What about the smells of the hallway? Do you remember all of your teacher's names? What about significant moments in time – do you remember where you were when you found out about these life-changing events?



Click [HERE](#) to read more of Arabeth's story!



The Wild and Wonderful World of Rural 19th Century Medicine By: Adam Ockers

One of the Beverly Heritage Center's most intriguing artifacts is an account book from the mid 19th century. It is an unassuming thing, the covers have been lost long ago and the pages darkened from their original white to a soft brown. In addition to the change in their color, the pages stiffened over time and some of the edges are prone to flaking. It sometimes feels like the book will fall apart in your hands as you flip through it.



Click [HERE](#) to read more of Adam's story!

We still have OPEN slots for the 2021-2022 AmeriCorps Term!

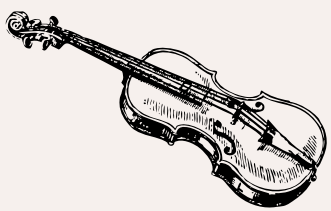


AmeriCorps
West Virginia



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.

Contact Chrissy Hall, Program Manager at chrissyheafnha.org with any questions on our AmeriCorps program.



Management Planning Update!



Our consultant team continues to construct the actual Management Plan.

But the job isn't done just yet..... when the plan is fully written we will seek more public comment and feedback before the final draft is sent to the NPS. Be on the lookout for that. Our goal is by March 1st. We couldn't have gotten this far without YOU!

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

Follow AFNHA on Facebook and Instagram!

