

JULY 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 IN PERSON meeting to exchange ideas and recommendations! **Save the date for Monday July 26 for AFNHA Planning Exchange Camp** to share ideas in small groups (outdoors or in large rooms) to help build more of the details for the AFNHA Plan. The exchange will be held at Camp Pioneer in Randolph County, just outside Elkins near Beverly, WV. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

To “Exchange” is to “give and receive reciprocally.” - Webster’s Dictionary

Exchange ideas!

Explore opportunities!

Engage in planning!

Small group sessions will be held outside or in large rooms, with distancing available and masks expected indoors for anyone not vaccinated for COVID. Small group discussions will include eight topics: preserving historic assets; arts, craft and living traditions; conserving natural resources; outdoor recreation; community development; visitor experience; telling the story; and building the partnership network. Read about these discussion topics, then pre-register below for what you want to participate in.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION! See you there!



CANDY DARTERS, BROOK TROUT, AND HELLBENDERS – OH MY!

By: Sydney Calton, serving with the MNF-Bartow

Before joining AFNHA AmeriCorps, when I thought of West Virginia’s freshwater systems I imagined trout, forested streams, and crayfish – there is so much more to them than just that! While I have plenty of snorkeling experience, I have never been able to immerse myself in such diverse freshwater systems until I came to work in the Monongahela National Forest. Snorkeling allows you to experience the stream in a completely unique way; fish are accustomed to predators approaching from above similar to how a kingfisher or heron would hunt so when you join them in the water to swim alongside them, they are less skittish...



[Click HERE to read the story!](#)

Can you believe it is almost that time of year again? AFNHA AmeriCorps has opened the search for new members for the 2021-2022 term! Click the AmeriCorps logo to follow information for the upcoming term and position descriptions!



AmeriCorps
CLICK ON THE LOGO FOR MORE INFORMATION



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



Upcoming Events



↓ Click on each logo for more info!

35th Annual Allegany County Fair/Ag Expo
July 16th-24th
Cumberland, MD
301-729-1200



It's the highlight of summer, where you gather with your family, friends, and neighbors; The Allegany County Fair and Ag Expo is more than just the carnival - there are national musical acts, Derbys, animal expos, and so much more that set the Allegany County Fair apart from the rest. Save the date for July 16-24, and come experience the top reasons we love the Allegany County Fair and Ag Expo.

Augusta Festival
July 24th, All Day
Elkins, WV City Park
304-637-1209



This festival is an annual celebration of traditional music, dance, and craft, the grand finale to our summer class sessions. The Augusta Festival includes a juried craft fair featuring the best regional artisans, live music on two stages, workshops, craft demonstrations, jam sessions, and children's activities.

Blues, Brews, and BBQs
Snowshoe Resort
July 30th-31st
Snowshoe, WV
877-441-4386



Enjoy the sounds of blues, the sweet smell of BBQ and cold beers just waiting to be sampled at the 2021 Blues, Brews & BBQs. Throw in a few bike races and this is sure to be one of the best weekends of the summer at Snowshoe Mountain Resort.

Williamsburg Fair
July 31st, 10am-10pm
Williamsburg, WV
304-645-3690



Come out and enjoy the 73rd Annual Williamsburg Community Fair! There will be a variety of activities including the annual parade (which everyone, anything and everything are invited to enter!), great food, wonderful live music, outdoor games, bingo and more! Hope to see you and your whole family there!

Braxton County Fair
August 5th-7th, All Day
Sutton, WV
304-765-2120



The Braxton County Fair is held annually at Holly Gray Park, just off of Route 15 near the Flatwoods exit from I-79. The Braxton County Fair features, carnival rides, live music, live stock shows, 4-H exhibits, and fair food! In past years the fair has also featured rodeos, mud bogs, and horse shows! Check the official fair website for updates!

State Fair of West Virginia
State Fair Grounds
August 12th-21st
Lewisburg, WV
304-645-1090



A long-standing tradition, 167 years and counting, the State Fair of WV is chock-full of festivities from livestock shows and competitions to carnival rides and concerts. Just about everyone can attest to a favorite fair tradition that lures them back year-after-year. Maybe it's the Ferris wheel as it spins, taking its riders up, up, up and around. Some are all about the food, making a special trip just for Ben Ellen doughnuts, fresh corn on the cob or a Cattleman's steak sandwich. Of course, some hold out for the evening entertainment, midway lights and live musical acts. It will be 10 fun-filled and award-winning days and nights that promise a great time no matter what you love about the fair!

