

JUNE 2023

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!

Grants

AFNHA is announcing our 2023 **sub-grant program** for projects that support AFNHA goals within the 18 AFNHA counties.

Grant requests can be from \$1,000 up to \$20,000. Recipients must provide non-federal match (cash or in-kind) at least equal to the amount received.

AFNHA invites applicants to begin work on proposals now. The formal application portal and Notice of Funding Opportunity will be available on **Monday, June 19th**. The project timeline is 1 year from Sept 2023–Sept 2024.

For more information and to access the application form beginning June 19, see www.appalachianforestnha.org/sub-grants

Highlands Creative Economy Tourism Summit
Thursday, August 3rd
Evergreen Heritage Center

Spend the day in scenic Allegany County, Maryland learning about tourism industry tools and local examples of best practices. More info is coming soon!



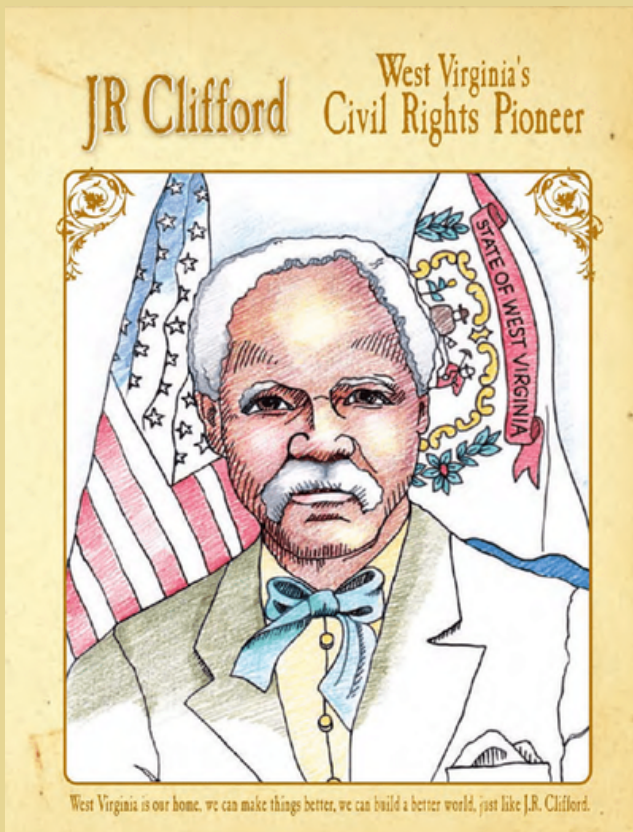
America250

America250 in the Appalachian Forest will commemorate the semiquincentennial of the founding of America by sharing the stories of the people, communities, and places that have shaped our region.

Partners are encouraged to participate through:

- 1) Submission of stories related to these themes for posting on the AFNHA America250 blog. Blog posts will include a cover photo, a summary of the story, and may have a longer narrative or links to more information when appropriate.
- 2) Developing projects to tell your America250 story. These may include a variety of project formats, such as research or oral history, digital, audio, or video products, interpretive signage, stationary or traveling exhibits, live programs, participation projects, youth projects, or preservation/conservation projects that include a storytelling aspect. America250 projects may be eligible for AFNHA sub-grants.

Learn more at <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/america250>



AmeriCorps Opportunities

We are currently hiring AmeriCorps members for our new “Summer of Service” program and our 2023-24 service year.

The new **Summer of Service** program is open to anyone at least 17 years of age and will host 4-8 AmeriCorps Members for projects supporting various organizations throughout our region for the Summer and early Fall of 2023. The program is open now and will run for a minimum of 12 weeks from the actual start date of the member. Members will help with various community projects that support historic preservation, conservation, heritage, and community development. Apply or learn more at <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/sos!>

We are now recruiting for over 30 positions for the 2023-24 service year beginning September 7th, 2023. AFNHA AmeriCorps service allows an individual to benefit local communities and landscapes while gaining professional skills and experience and earn money to pay for school or student loans. View the full list of available positions at <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/positions>



Stakeholder Meeting

AFNHA held our annual Stakeholder Meeting last month at historic Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg. We were joined by attendees representing diverse organizations from Greenbrier County and across our region.

We led with a presentation about AFNHA priorities and programs, then spent most of the day getting to know our new and long-time partners and listening to their perspectives and priorities.

Read more about the meeting including the priorities identified in our breakout sessions, and see more photos [HERE!](#)

Thank you to everyone who attended, and special thanks to Carnegie Hall for hosting us, the O'Cafe for catering, the North House Museum for providing a tour, Danielle Parker and David McGill for facilitating, and to our panelists and presenters: Tammy Tincher (Greenbrier County Commission), Rhett Dusenbury (Office of Rep. Alex Mooney), Brian Belcher (Greenbrier County CVB), Matthew Campbell (Greenbrier Valley Theatre), Travis Miller (WV Division of Forestry), Margaret Hambrick (Greenbrier County Historical Society), Erika Marks (Yew Mountain Center).



AmeriCorps Stories

ArtSpring Festival Lantern Parade By Kristin Winebrenner

The annual ArtSpring Festival celebration in Tucker County was a huge success this year with live music, a pop-up ArtSpring Shop in Davis, the Thomas arts walk, a pub crawl, food and so much more! This year, the Lantern Parade returned for the first time since Covid. As per tradition, the lanterns were created during a free workshop for the public and displayed proudly within the community during a parade throughout Thomas.

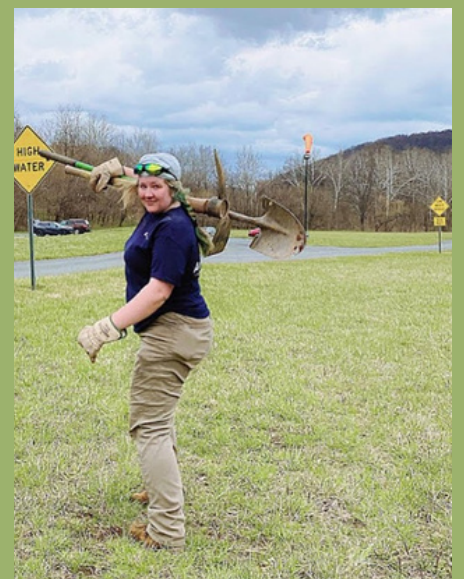
Learn how Kristin helped 70 participants of all ages create festive hats and lanterns [HERE!](#)



Two Years of a Little Extra Life By Ellen White

“One of the most enduring and inspiring aspects of living and working in West Virginia is that there is a collective understanding to uphold both the heritage and natural ecosystems that we all know, use, and love. With fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation being such an ingrained part of the generational history and tourism, it is hard not to feel like I have the privilege of living a little extra life every time I go to serve.”

Read more about Ellen’s two years of service [HERE!](#)



AmeriCorps Stories

Uncovering Civil War Era Graffiti

By Sammy Ryder

“I recently had the opportunity to participate in a plaster stabilization workshop at my service site, the Beverly Heritage Center. Chris Mills, a plaster expert, came to work on the second floor of the Crawford Building, which served as McClellan’s headquarters in Beverly. I worked with him for a few days learning how to stabilize plaster and uncovering Civil War era graffiti.”

Read how she uncovered Civil War-era graffiti [HERE!](#)



Pictured here is graffiti that reads “Office of W. H. McGune Esq.”

Events

Click links for more info

June 15-18 | [Young People for Parks naturalist events](#) | Holly River State Park
June 16 | [Almost Heaven BBQ Bash](#) | Buckhannon
June 16-19 | [Juneteenth Celebration](#) | Canal Place Festival Grounds
June 22-24 | [West Virginia Quilt Festival](#) | Summersville Arena
June 23-24 | [Dry Creek Music & Arts Festival](#) | White Sulphur Springs
June 24 | [South Branch Bluegrass Festival](#) | Wapocoma Campground
June 24 | [Spruce Knob Kite Festival](#)
June 24 | Belington Sweet Treats Festival
June 24 | [Wild Wonderful Woods Celebration](#) | Kump Education Center
June 24 | [Live Music at Southside Depot](#) | Petersburg
June 24-25 | [Powwow in Parsons](#) | Five River Campground
June 28 | [Farm to Table BBQ Feast](#) | Misty Mountain Event Barn
July 2 | [Art in the Park](#) | Berkeley Springs State Park
July 6-8 | [Pioneer Days](#) | Marlinton
July 8 | [New Deal Festival](#) | Arthurdale Heritage
July 8-9 | [Victorian Chautauqua Festival](#) | Mountain Lake Park

Regular live music:

Thursdays | [Our Town free concert series](#) | Elkins
Thursdays | [Summer Concert Series](#) | Barbour County Courthouse
Fridays | [Festival Fridays](#) | Buckhannon
Fridays | [Braxton Jamboree](#) | Gassaway
Fridays | [Music in the Garden](#) | Richwood
Fridays | [First Fridays](#) | Marlinton

Regional News

AFNHA extends our condolences to the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation for the death of [Paul G. Benedum, Jr.](#)

[Upshur County Historical Society](#) presents its summer 2023 exhibit: “From the Ice Age to the Modern Age: A Chronological Timeline of Upshur County History”.

[West Virginia Nature Conservancy purchase](#) preserves increased habitat in the Canaan Valley.

The City of Richwood featured by [WV Living](#)

Seneca State Forest featured by [National Geographic](#)

WV Department of Tourism announced the new [Birdeye Bend](#) scenic route, which passes through Preston, Tucker, Randolph, and Barbour Counties.



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