

MAY 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.

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Job Openings: Long-time AFNHA Executive Director Phyllis Baxter is looking forward to retirement next year. To prepare for a smooth transition, AFNHA is seeking candidates for the Executive Director position to start later this year. AFNHA is also hiring for other staff positions as we move forward to implement our management plan. . . .

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Job Openings

To manage our growing programs we are now looking for additional staff to join our team.

Executive Director:

We are looking for a strong and flexible leader who will oversee our staff team in implementing the AFNHA management plan. We are seeking a team leader who can fill the duties that the organization needs, and who will exemplify competence, communication, collaboration, integrity, and commitment.

Commitment to our non-profit mission is important. Our staff team operates collaboratively, with considerable independence, self-direction, and accountability from each position.

The founding ED is retiring by January 2024 and will participate in mentoring, training, and transition. We would like to select the replacement ED and bring them on board several months ahead of her retirement, to become familiar with the organization and duties, and to work together with her for a transition period.

Programs Manager: We are looking for a capable, mid-level professional to manage multiple AFNHA programs. Strong organization skills, communications, and self-direction will be expected. Duties will include planning and organizing programs, scheduling and supervising AmeriCorps members or program staff, and working as a team to implement the program activities. Weekend work will be required periodically.

Administrative Manager: We are looking for an experienced administrative and financial professional who will take primary responsibility for bookkeeping, financial tracking, data management, and office administration for our organization. We look for qualities of accuracy and attention to detail, and the ability to work both independently and closely with a team. Competence, communication, collaboration, integrity, and commitment to our non-profit mission are important.

Visit <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/employment> for full job descriptions and application instructions.

AmeriCorps Openings

We are now hiring AmeriCorps members for our new “Summer of Service” program and our regular 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 start date is June 1, and may run through October 2023. Member terms will be for a minimum of 12 weeks from the actual start date of the member. Members will help with a variety of community projects. Typical projects are expected to be those that support historic preservation, conservation, heritage, and community development. Apply or learn more at <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/sos!>

Need help for your organization? Apply to sponsor a project [HERE!](#)

We are also now hiring over 30 positions for the **2023-24 service year** beginning September 7th. 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

You're invited to our Annual **Stakeholder Meeting** in historic downtown Lewisburg, WV. What is a stakeholder? Anyone in our region interested in our mission and goals! Learn how AFNHA can support you, and network with partners across the AFNHA.

The event will take place **Monday, May 22nd** from 10am-3pm at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg. Find more details including registration, agenda, and our Greenbrier County Discovery Guide at <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/2023-stakeholder-meeting>

Join us to hear more about these upcoming announcements:

Grant program - Learn about our expanded goals and eligibility. Start brainstorming your projects now!

America 250 in the Appalachian Forest - Learn how you can help us share our region's stories!

All attendees will receive a **FREE AFNHA bag!**



Appalachian Forest Discovery Center

The Discovery Center is now Open

Our rotating exhibit this season is titled “**Material Culture: Wood and Weaving**”. It covers the influence of the mountainous forest environment of our region on folk art and music. The folk arts featured served utilitarian purposes for many years and were affected by the natural material people could find around them. The music of the region was built on traditions settlers brought with them and shaped by the isolation of the mountains.

We are open Thursday through Sunday from 9:30am-4:30pm in the Darden Mill (corner of 1st St and Railroad Ave in Elkins). Admission is always FREE!



Explore our NHA

Hiking Challenge

Spring is well underway! Birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and the Appalachian mountains are covered in swaths of green. In times like these, there's no better way to experience nature than to hike in West Virginia and Maryland's beautiful landscapes.

Complete our **Hiking Challenge** by going on any 5 hikes in our region, and receive a free embroidered patch! Whether you're a seasoned hiker or looking to start, the challenge has something for everyone. Check out guided hiking tours and more details about the challenge at <https://afnha.org/hiking-challenge>.

Forestry Tour

West Virginia and Maryland have a rich history with the forests that cover the states. From unique habitats for flora and fauna to a historic relationship with logging and regrowth, there's a breadth of interesting forestry in the AFNHA region.

The Forestry Tour is a digital tour that covers dozens of forestry sites. Whether it's interpretive trails on hikes or brochures that detail the history of a forest, the Forestry Tour is an all-in-one guide for learning about the vast forest history in the AFNHA area. You can find the link to the Forestry Tour [HERE](#). For other natural history maps, check [HERE](#).



AmeriCorps Story

Red Spruce Restoration and American Chestnut Planting Projects By: Kacey Shiflett

The West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOT) is committed to protecting, nurturing, sustaining, and promoting the wise utilization of our state's forest resources.

The WV DOT has managed the Red Spruce Restoration project at Kumbrabow State Forest for the past three years. Local 4-H students have been helping them plant roughly 1,000 red spruce saplings each May. This project is part of the Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative (CASRI).

Before the late 1800s, West Virginia's forests consisted of about 1 million acres of red spruce, unfortunately only about 10 percent of that forest remains in the state today. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, an extensive amount of commercial logging began in the state and decimated the red spruce forests. Red spruce now covers about 178,000 acres at high elevations in the Allegheny Mountains and places on North Fork Mountain.

Read how Kacey is helping to restore Red Spruce and American Chestnut forests [HERE!](#)



Events

Click links for more info

- May 15-21 | [West Virginia Strawberry Festival](#) | Buckhannon
- May 20 | [WV Forest Farming Field Day](#) | Yew Mountain Center
- May 20 | [Moonshine Memories](#) | Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge
- May 20-21 | [Bringing in the May Festival](#) | Berkeley Springs State Park
- May 20-21 | [Allegheny Trail Work Weekend](#)
- May 21 | [Spring Festival](#) | Evergreen Heritage Center
- May 26-27 | [Grand Opening: Sweetwater Farm Trail Center](#) | Sugar Grove
- May 26-28 | [Webster County Woodchopping Festival](#) | Webster Springs
- May 27 | [Alderson Strawberry Festival](#)
- June 1-4 | [Blue & Gray Reunion](#) | Philippi
- June 3 | [Garrett County Celtic Festival](#) | Friendsville Community Park
- June 3 | [Garden Walk](#) | Hampshire County Co-op & Marketplace
- June 3 | [Run 4 Hope 5k](#) | Keyser
- June 9-18 | [Allegheny County Museum Week](#)
- June 9-10 | [Mountain Made Makers Market](#) | Summersville Lake
- June 10 | [Goat Gallop 5k](#) | Arthurdale Heritage
- June 10 | [Farmers Market Grand Opening](#) | Moorefield
- June 10 | [WV Taxidermy Association Convention and Competition](#) | Flatwoods

Regional News

Several locations in our region featured as the “10 Most Beautiful Places To Visit In West Virginia During Spring” by [thetravel.com](#)

[Upper Greenbrier River Watershed Fish Passage](#) project receives \$939,500 to remove culvert barriers throughout the Upper Greenbrier Watershed.

The [Barbour County Historical Museum](#) will be extending its hours. The new hours will be: Thursday-Saturday 11-4, and Sunday 1-4.

[Pendleton County Farmers Market](#) in Franklin is looking for crafters, makers, artists, and other local value-added products.

[Beverly Heritage Center](#), [Greenbrier County CVB](#), and [Allegheny Trail](#) announced new websites.



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