

FEBRUARY 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](http://afnha.org).



## Happy Black History Month

We have updated our list of educational resources with additional information from Greenbrier, Hardy, Randolph, and Tucker counties.

**[Click here](#)** to learn more on our website!



Left: schoolteacher Carrie Williams of Thomas, WV (photo from Friends of the Blackwater). Right: an unnamed caretaker in Beverly, WV (photo from Beverly Heritage Center).

## Never Too Old to Serve!

By Shefa Benoit

The Hardy County CVB was seeking ways to encourage responsible tourism. The catch? The position was through the AFNHA's AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps? Isn't that for those young spirited college graduates seeking experiential learning as they map out their professional paths? What business does a 57-year-old grandmother, semi-retired and still failing to meet my daily step goals have in applying? Wouldn't I be taking an opportunity away from someone more in need of the experience?

**[Click here](#)** to read more about Shefa's move to West Virginia and her AmeriCorps service.



## Camp Pioneer's History Makes Memories

By Maddy Fleming

At Camp Pioneer there is a group photograph for every year 4-H Camp has been held. In every photo, there are smiles full of fun, community, and fellowship. It's this feeling of fellowship that connects the youth of the past with those of the present, experiencing 4-H for themselves.

**[Click here](#)** to learn how Maddy helped preserve and display these historic photos!



# Upcoming AFNHA Events

## Stakeholder Meeting

We will hold our annual Stakeholder Meeting in May in Lewisburg. We are still finalizing the details, so stay tuned for the exact date and venue. This event will give attendees the chance to learn about local partners and projects in Greenbrier County, as well as AFNHA's upcoming and ongoing programs. Our tentative schedule includes lunch, networking opportunities, presentations from AFNHA and local organizations, and a local history tour.

## Call for Interest - AFNHA Board and Committees

The AFNHA Board of Directors is seeking individuals who are interested in participating with the Board or any of our ongoing committees. If interested email Executive Director Phyllis Baxter at [phyllisb@afnha.org](mailto:phyllisb@afnha.org).

In the past month AFNHA staff traveled to Washington D.C. (left) and Charleston (right) to represent our organization at our National and State Capitols.



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# AmeriCorps Applications

## Site Applications Open for the 2023-24 Term

Applications are now open to host an AmeriCorps Member for project-based positions that support asset improvement or educational stewardship related to environmental conservation and/or community/cultural heritage development. Sponsor sites must be non-profit or governmental organizations within the 16 West Virginia AFNHA counties. See our website for instructions or email Program Manager Chrissy Hall at [chrissyh@afnha.org](mailto:chrissyh@afnha.org)

## AmeriCorps Positions are still available for the 2022-23 Term

AFNHA AmeriCorps members provide a year of service, allowing an individual to benefit local communities, assets, and landscapes while gaining professional development, strengthening their own skills, and following their passions. AFNHA pairs talented individuals with partner organizations helping to fulfill our mission.

### Available Conservation, Heritage & Community Development Positions:

- ✓ AFNHA Heritage Tourism
- ✓ Appalachian Expeditions
- ✓ Arthurdale Heritage Inc.
- ✓ Beverly Heritage Center
- ✓ Monongahela National Forest: Mon Forest Towns
- ✓ Tourism Positions in Pocahontas, Mineral, Nicholas, and Hampshire Counties
- ✓ WV Railroad Museum

To learn more about our positions visit our website

<https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/positions>



# Events

Click links for more info

Feb 4-25 | [Mountain Maryland Photo Contest Exhibit](#) | Allegany Arts Council  
Feb 18 | [Mountain State Maple Days](#)  
Feb 18 | [Fasnacht](#) | Helvetia  
Feb 18 | Kickoff Show | [17 North Event Center](#)  
Feb 22 | [ArtSpring Community Drawing Night](#) | The Purple Fiddle  
Feb 23 | [Black Opry Review](#) | Carnegie Hall  
Feb 23-26 | [International Water Tasting](#) | Berkeley Springs  
Feb 25 | [Hacker Valley Chili Challenge](#) | Holly River State Park  
Feb 25 | [Appalachian Voices](#) | Arthurdale Heritage  
Feb 26-28 | [Maryland Special Olympics Winter Games](#) | Wisp Resort  
March 4 | [Full Moon Hike](#) | Cass Scenic Railroad State Park  
March 4 | [Hometown Brewfest](#) | Canaan Valley Resort  
March 11-12 | [Potomac Highlands Outdoor Show](#) | Hardy County Fairgrounds  
March 13 | [Hospitality Lunch and Learn Series](#) | Capon Springs Farm  
March 15 | Agritourism Summit | Misty Mountain Event Barn  
Register at <https://bit.ly/2023AgritourismSummit>  
March 17-18 | [Spring Craft & Vendor Show](#) | American Heritage Music Hall  
March 18-19 | [Pickens Maple Syrup Festival](#)  
March 18 | [Mountain State Maple Days](#)  
March 24-25 | [WV Woods & Water Expo](#) | Summersville Arena  
Live music Fridays at [Braxton County Jamboree](#)

## Other Regional News

Friends of Blackwater unveiled a new [interpretive sign](#) on the Blackwater Rail Trail about local Civil Rights pioneers Carrie Williams and J.R. Clifford  
Allegany County, Maryland, Takes Home Multiple "Best Of Awards" from [Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine](#)  
Berkeley Springs and Capon Springs Resort featured in [Southern Living](#)  
[Tucker County](#) and [Lewisburg](#) featured by Thrillist



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