

JANUARY 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.



Congress Passes Landmark Legislation to Ensure Long-Term Stability for America’s National Heritage Areas

In one of the last acts in the 117th Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) by a bi-partisan vote of 326-95. Days earlier, the Senate passed the same bill without opposition. President Biden signed the legislation on January, 5th.

The National Heritage Area Act creates standard criteria for the funding, management, and designation of National Heritage Areas across the country and provides them an annual authorization of up to \$1 million per year for the next 15 years.

"Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (AFNHA), will benefit from this bill establishing a strong, sustained, National Heritage Area Program that will provide us support and assistance from the National Park Service," explained Phyllis Baxter, AFNHA Executive Director. "This bill also reauthorizes Wheeling National Heritage Area and National Coal Heritage Area in West Virginia and Baltimore National Heritage Area and Journey Through Hallowed Ground in Maryland, and establishes the new Southern Maryland National Heritage Area."

Read more about the bill [HERE](#)

AmeriCorps Story



Video Tour: Barbour County Historical Museum By Marisa Terwilliger

Philippi is well known as the site of the first land battle of the Civil War and the home of the Philippi Mummies, but the history of Barbour County includes so much more! Watch as Marisa takes you on a short tour of the Barbour County Historical Museum and shows you some interesting things they have on display.

Watch the video [HERE!](#)



AmeriCorps
West Virginia

Upcoming AFNHA Meetings

Highlands Creative Economy

AFNHA and Eastern WVCTC partner to host the Highlands Creative Economy each month. This group gives local CVB's, county tourism leaders, and local small tourist businesses networking opportunities to discuss successes, ongoing issues, and solutions. Guest speakers regularly attend to speak on subject matters of interest to the group. Eastern WVCTC provides monthly trainings that focus on tourism and small business development, and AFNHA hosts a Tourism Summit each year. All who are interested in tourism in the AFNHA region are invited to attend!

At our next meeting on **January 26th** we will discuss accessibility issues in the tourism industry. Register for the meeting **here**, or sign up to receive meeting invites **here**.

Interpretation Committee

As we work on the implementation of our Management Plan, AFNHA is seeking interested stakeholders, partners, and interpretation professionals to participate in our Interpretation Committee.

Committee projects and meeting dates are as follows:

Museum planning group for Appalachian Forest Discovery Center main exhibit refresh:

Wednesday, January 25, 3 pm.

Criteria and guidelines planning group for AFNHA tourism site partners:

Thursday, January 26, 3 pm

America250 program for AFNHA: **Friday, February 17, 11 am**

We will use this zoom link for all of these meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88990017450?pwd=RmVES1VPWUxZMFhoUzJZQlNzQUFHZz09>

Feel free to attend any of them you are interested in. You are welcome to get involved with the committee as a whole, or with specific projects. Email phyllisb@afnha.org (and copy discovery@afnha.org) to let us know your level of interest in the committee, a project, or in being an interpretation or subject matter advisor.

AmeriCorps Positions - Apply Today

AFNHA AmeriCorps Program Builds Community Ambassadors

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 Positions include:

- ✓ Appalachian Expeditions
- ✓ Appalachian Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- ✓ Monongahela National Forest: Mon Forest Towns
- ✓ WV Highlands Conservancy
- ✓ AND MORE

Available Heritage & Community Development Positions:

- ✓ AFNHA Heritage Tourism
- ✓ Arthurdale Heritage Inc.
- ✓ Beverly Heritage Center
- ✓ Tourism Positions in Pocahontas, Mineral, Nicholas, Hardy, Randolph, 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

Jan 7-Feb 17 | “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” Exhibit | Allegany Museum

Jan 16 | Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Program | West Virginia Wesleyan College

Jan 21 | Civil War Coffee Tastes Terrible | Beverly Heritage Center

Jan 21 | Town of Bath Follies | Star Theater

Jan 27-28 | Upshur Homeschool Association Archery Tournament | Summersville Arena

Jan 28 | Art For All | The River House

Feb 4 | Full Moon Hike | Cass Scenic Railroad State Park

Feb 4 | “Crocks of Burning Love” Chili Cookoff | Rainelle

Feb 7 | Blind Skier 50th Anniversary Gala | Wisp Resort

Feb 11 | Live Music & Square Dance | Arthurdale Heritage

Feb 12 | Snowshoe Discovery Tour | Whitegrass Ski Center

Feb 18 | Fasnacht | Helvetia

Feb 18 | Mountain State Maple Days | Statewide

Feb 25 | Hacker Valley Chili Challenge | Holly River State Park

Jan 21 | Dardenfest | Appalachian Forest Discovery Center

Enjoy live musical performances to support the renovation of the Elkins-Randolph County Public Library! Doors will open at 5:30 pm with the concert starting at 6pm. Admission is \$10 for the general public, \$5 for AmeriCorps members, veterans and college students. Donations can also be made at <https://elkinslibrary.com>



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