

JUNE 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!





Task Group Update

We will be holding another Interpretation Task Group meeting on Thursday, June 24th at 1pm.

Click [HERE](#) for the Zoom link.

This meeting will discuss feedback on the interpretive framework and to help formulate questions to discuss during the Interpretation and Education topics at the Planning Exchange July 26.

We look forward to your participation and continued help. Email us at planning@afnha.org to participate!



Join the AFNHA's Pollinator Initiative this **Saturday (June 19th)** at the Elkin's Farmers Market from **8am to 12pm** for FREE wildflowers! We will have FREE native wildflower seeds, soil and seed pots for you to grow your own flowers. All you need to bring is yourself and a passion for pollinators - see you all there! (P.S. they would make a great Father's Day gift!!)

[Click HERE to learn more about the AFNHA Pollinator Initiative!](#)

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.

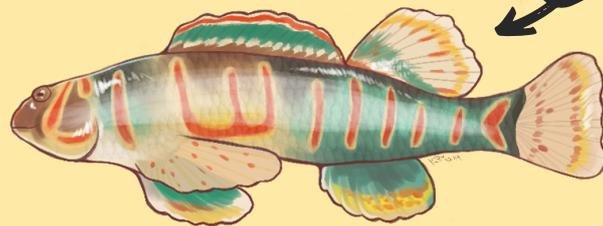


PAINTING CANDY DARTERS: AN ADVENTURE IN THE STREAM!

By: Kalee Paxton, serving with the MNF-Marlinton People say a picture is worth a thousand words, so a painting must be worth a million. When it comes to designing interpretive signs, you can only have so many words before you lose your audience and that is why using art is so important to getting your message across and have an audience actually receive it.



[Click Here to Read Kalee's Story!](#)



Pst! Kalee drew this!!



Discover Nature Day at Seneca Rocks

It was a great day for visitors to come out to our annual Discover Nature Day on June 5th! Exhibits on archaeology, pollinators, mammals, raptors, bird watching, lichen, and invasive plants drew in all ages. There was something for everyone to learn about their public lands. Many AFNHA AmeriCorps participated and represented the organization they serve! A special thanks to all that made this event possible and those that came out to see it!





Upcoming Events



↓ Click on each logo for more info!

Gassaway Days
June 24th-26th
Community Building
Gassaway, WV
304-364-5111



Come out to Gassaway Days, June 24th - 26th! Enjoy live country and bluegrass music, carnival rides, and the railroad history at Gassaway at the Gassaway Depot. See below for details, check back for updates! 7PM: Whisky River (Country music) 8:30PM: Tygart Junction (Country music) Friday, June 25th 6PM: Pulse Church (Gospel music) 7PM: Willie D & No Regrets (Country music) 8:30PM: Daniel Lilly and much more!

Art Feature Showcase
June 26th, 6pm-8pm
Cumberland, MD
301-777-5132



This annual art showcase features the work of our artist-members and celebrates the vibrant arts and cultural scene in our community. A public opening for the exhibition will be held Saturday, June 26, from 6:00PM-8:00PM.

1st Annual Bigfoot Festival
June 26th, 9am-9pm
Sutton, WV
717-228-7524



Come out to the first annual West Virginia Bigfoot Festival in Sutton, West Virginia! The grand opening of the West Virginia Bigfoot Museum will take place on the same day! Vendors and activates will be there as well as a visit from Sutton's own Sasquatch! For more details as they develop, follow the event page on Facebook!

Windfest 2021
July 2nd-4th, All Day
Davis, WV
304-866-2215



Join us for Windfest 2021! A weekend packed with some amazing events here at Canaan Valley Resort! Events include scenic chairlift rides, kite building workshops, The Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, and multiple food vendors!

Victorian Chautauqua
July 10th, 9am-7pm
Mountain Lake Park, MD
301-334-2250



Where History Lives! The Victorian Chautauqua is a two-day event celebrating the rich history of Mountain Lake Park with lectures, historical portrayals, musical performances, historic home tours, family-friendly activities, artisans, food, and more.

Looking for recap and video recordings from the 2021 Tourism Summit? Check them out here!

