

MARCH 2021

GROWTH RINGS

APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA NEWSLETTER



Management Planning Update

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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

Task Group update:

Interpretation and Visitor Experience: The planning consultant team worked with the interpretation themes with help from our National Park Service liaison and certain stakeholders. This effort was completed in early March and the themes have been sent out for comment and feedback from the task group.

The **Organization Structure and Management** and the **Asset Stewardship and Enhancement** continue work with the consultant team. Tourism development is coming soon. Make sure you are signed up to receive task group updates if you want to participate! Email us at planning@afnha.org.



We have many events coming up in 2021! This year AFNHA will complete the full Management Plan for review from stakeholders like YOU before we send it to the National Park Service and Congress. We plan on having many public engagement meetings. Be sure to sign up to receive updates on these meetings!



Email us at planning@afnha.org if you would like to get involved in any Task Group!



NEWS AND UPDATES

AmeriCorps Story

Connecting People Across Time Through Forgotten Bits of History

By: Spencer Kuchle

Serving with the Upshur County Historical Society and the Randolph County Museum

This year, I have the privilege of continuing my work at RCM and have added a new site—the Upshur County Historical Society (UCHS) in Buckhannon to my service. There are exciting synergies between my work at the museum and historical society that have emerged from my research and exhibit preparation. In the fall, I wrote and submitted a successful grant proposal for funding from The West Virginia Humanities Council to support exhibition development. The exhibit, *If These Walls Could Talk*, showcases the multiple ways the Blackman-Bosworth building, which has housed the Randolph County Museum since 1972, has contributed to the history and culture of Randolph County.

Click HERE to read the full story!



2020 Annual Report

AFNHA released the first Annual Report for the year 2020 last week! Click to link below to view.

The report includes a summary of Management Planning, highlights the AmeriCorps program with some reflections from former and currently serving AmeriCorps members, and an overview from the financial management side of AFNHA.

A big THANK YOU to all staff, AmeriCorps, and board members who helped put this report together. We hope you, as a stakeholder, enjoy it!

Click HERE to read the 2020 Annual Report

Email Lukas at lukas@afnha.org if you would like a higher resolution version of the Annual Report.



Applications are now **OPEN** for Site sub-sponsors to host AmeriCorps members for the 2021-2022 program year



AmeriCorps



**CLICK ON THE
LOGO FOR MORE
INFORMATION**



Contact Chrissy Hall, Program Manager at chrissyh@afnha.org with any questions on how to apply.



Upcoming Events



Click on each logo for more info!

WV Free Ski Day
March 28th, All Day
Snowshoe Mountain
877-441-4386



Show your proof of WV residency & ski for free, it's simple! For more information, call the phone number below or visit Snowshoe Mountain Resort's website by clicking the link below

Augusta Singers' Circle
April 11th, 7:30-9:30pm
Virtual
304-637-1209



Bring your favorite songs to share, and sing along at home with songs led by others in the circle! This event is hosted by Flawn Williams, coordinator of Augusta's Vocal Week programs. To join via Zoom, please drop Augusta a quick email (augustaheritagecenter@dewv.edu) and we will email you the Zoom link.

Spring Mountain Festival
April 22nd-25th, All Day
Petersburg, WV
304-257-2722



Mark your calendars for the Spring Mountain Festival! Admission to the festival grounds is free and features fabulous entertainment from the festival stage, arts and craft vendors with a variety of interesting and useful creations and novelty items, rides, games, food vendors, flea market, civil war train rides, and much more!

Black History Walking Tour
North House Museum
May 2nd, 1-3pm
Lewisburg, WV
304-645-3398



The Greenbrier Historical Society will be offering a series of guided walking tours for groups of up to 8 people. Nine tours will be offered in 15-minute intervals, with the first beginning at 1 P.M. and the last tour beginning at 3 P.M. **\$10 per person.**

WV Strawberry Festival
May 13th-16th, All Day
Buckhannon, WV
304-472-9036



The West Virginia Strawberry Festival truly is an exciting family tradition! As our communities continue to respond to COVID-19, The WV Strawberry Festival Board of Directors is continuing their work to think outside the box to maximize the quality of the Strawberry Festival, while keeping you and your family safe. A modified schedule of events will take place May 13 - 16, 2021. We remain optimistic for a successful Festival!

Berry Fest at
Sunset Berry Farm
May 30th-June 3rd,
10am-5pm
Alderson, WV
304-646-3784



Sunset Berry Farm invites you out for a two week Berry Fest that will include everything from pick your own strawberries to zombie paintball! Other planned activities include: jump pad, fairy garden, scavenger hunt, pony rides, paint, sip & taste....not to mention a Goodson Boys concert!

Follow AFNHA on Facebook and Instagram!

