

MAY 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



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!



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



AFNHA hosted a public input meeting on Monday, May 17th. The video recording of that meeting can be found [HERE](#), on our website. Notes from breakout rooms will be available soon, keep a lookout for them! Please contact any of us at planning@afnha.org if you need more information on the previous meeting.



Task Groups: If you would like to contribute to the Asset Database, take a look at our [website](#) to find out how you can help. If you would like to contribute to our Interpretive Themes, email us at planning@afnha.org!

NEWS AND UPDATES

Discovery Center Open for Season

The Appalachian Forest Discovery Center is now open for the season! Come check out our two exhibits including rotating exhibit on Public Land Use in the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area. Public lands provide a beautiful home for the region's unique plants and animals, essential resources that you use every day, and off-the-beaten-path places for adventures

Open May-October, Thursday thru Sunday

9:30am-4:30pm

101 Railroad Ave Elkins, WV 26231

Be sure to check out the WV Railroad Museum upstairs!



2021 Tourism Summit

In partnership with Eastern WVCTC, AFNHA, on behalf of the Potomac Highlands Creative Economy Council, will virtually host a Tourism Summit on **June 2nd from 10am-4pm!**

Sessions will include topics on Bus Tours, Civil War Trails, Tourism Development, and a Lodging Issues and Workforce Development panel. **All tourism partners in the AFNHA region will be invited!**

PRE-REGISTER HERE!

AGENDA HERE!



Can you believe it is almost that time of year again? AFNHA AmeriCorps will soon be opening the search for new members for the 2021-2022 term! Click the AmeriCorps logo to follow information for the upcoming term!



AmeriCorps



**CLICK ON THE
LOGO FOR MORE
INFORMATION**



Contact Chrissy Hall, Program Manager at chrissyh@afnha.org with any questions on our AmeriCorps program.

New and Updates Continued!



AFNHA Rejuvenates Pollinator Initiative and Pledge!

We are excited to embark on our newest mission to improve collaboration surrounding conservation efforts that benefit native pollinators in the Appalachian forest region. This initiative was created with the goal of bringing together all of the fantastic stakeholders contributing to pollinator wellbeing in the Appalachian forest region.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full story!

Discover Nature Day at the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center

Saturday, June 5th from 10am-3pm
Live Animals, naturalists, activities,
giveaways, and more!

Come out and explore our natural areas!

Contact Cassidy.Attanasio@usda.gov or call
(304) 567-2827 for more information!

Click [HERE](#) for flyer
and virtual activities!





Upcoming Events



↓ Click on each logo for more info!

**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!

**The Del McCoury Band
Canal Place Festival Grounds
May 31st, 2pm-5pm
Cumberland, MD
301-777-5132**



Canal Place and the City of Cumberland are pleased to present The Del McCoury Band as they will be performing on the Festival Grounds at Canal Place on May 31, 2021, from 2-5 PM. Admission is FREE and please bring your own chair.

**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!

**Setting Up Camp
Cass Scenic Railroad
June 5th, All Day
Cass, WV
304-456-4300**



Learn more about the history of timbering and music in Pocahontas County, as well as the ways in which the arrival of West Virginia Pulp and Paper shifted the culture and society of Cass. This exhibit will begin at 1 p.m., with a guided hike to Spruce (departing from the Old Spruce Road near Snowshoe) at 2 p.m.

**WV Dandelion Festival
May 28th-29th
White Sulphur Springs, WV
304-536-1466**



Downtown White Sulphur Springs is excited to bring back the WV Dandelion Festival. Enjoy a weekend that honors not only the ubiquitous dandelion but also honors veterans and is chock full of events, activities and vendors including everything from a parade including everything from a parade and live music/dancing to a teddy bear picnic and cruise in!

**Wheeling Symphony Orchestra
July 3rd, time TBD
Davis, WV
304-259-5315**



The 2021 Celebration of the Arts will be held on Sunday, July 3rd. Join the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra at the Canaan Valley Resort State Park ski area for culture on the lawn. The start time is still to be determined. The event is free of charge. Lawn chairs, coolers, and blankets are welcome. Please avoid setting up large "beach" umbrellas.



AFNHA Awarded

The Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service (including the Monongahela National Forest, recently recognized and awarded some of these individuals, organizations, and partners for their exceptional work in five categories: Enduring Service, Leadership, Restoration, Cultural Diversity, and Citizen Stewardship & Partnerships. AFNHA received the award in Cultural Diversity!



AmeriCorps

"Monongahela National Forest has been closely involved with the organization since its origins in 2001. Over the years, the two organizations have partnered on numerous conservation, heritage, and interpretive projects on National Forest System lands, including the AmeriCorps program that has provided AmeriCorps members to serve on the Forest annually since 2008. Thanks to the assistance of the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area staff and an AmeriCorps member they sponsored, the Forest was able to hold virtual celebrations to mark the Forest Centennial in 2020, when planned events were cancelled due to the pandemic. The 20-year partnership between Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area and Monongahela National Forest demonstrates our shared commitment to the five core values of the Forest Service -- service, interdependence, conservation, diversity and safety."

Thank you to the Monongahela National Forest! We look forward to continuing our partnership for many more years to come!

