

OCTOBER 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.



Fall Foliage Updates

Autumn is here! Follow the links below to see official updates for best viewing times for peak fall colors:

[Maryland](#)
[West Virginia](#)

Fiscal Sustainability Director

We are hiring a director-level position primarily focusing on fiscal resource development and organizational sustainability. Competitive pay for the position is provided. This is a full-time position located in the Elkins office.

Read the full job description [HERE](#)



AmeriCorps Opportunities

We are still recruiting for several open positions. AmeriCorps is open to anyone aged 17 years or older. A service year is an excellent opportunity for recent graduates, those looking for a gap year, retirees, or anyone looking for a change who wants to make a difference in our communities. Benefits include a living stipend of \$20,000, an education award, and WV Tuition Waiver.

We have added new positions including:

Barbour County Historical Museum

City of Belington

Tygart Valley Homestead Association

Know someone who might be interested? Send them our way! Learn more about the program and how to apply at appalachianforestnha.org/ameriCorps-positions



“My year at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge has been incredibly rewarding and something I will always remember fondly. I am very grateful for my time as an AmeriCorps member... I felt that I was able to learn more and really advance my skill set through my year-long position with AFNHA. I highly recommend AmeriCorps and AFNHA to anyone who is looking to get their foot in the door in the field of conservation and gain valuable experience. I have learned more than I could have imagined through my AmeriCorps positions.”

Read more of Bela’s story [HERE](#)



Interpretation News

Interpretation Training

Friday, November 3 9:30 am-4:30 pm

West Virginia Wood Technology Center (10 11th St, Elkins, WV 26241)

Workshops will cover interpretation basics, personal and non-personal interpretation, developing exhibits, and interpreting difficult stories. Trainers will include Dr. Dave Smaldone (WVU), Kyle Warmack (WV Humanities Council), and Katie Thompson. Free and open to all and highly encouraged for AmeriCorps members, partners, and grantees doing interpretation projects. Lunch included. Please RSVP by email to afnha@afnha.org

Inclusive Storytelling Grant

We have received an [Inclusive Storytelling grant](#) from the National Park Foundation to explore Indigenous history in the AFNHA region. This “Rediscovering Indigenous Appalachia” project will fund original research by consultants, new exhibits at sites including the Appalachian Forest Discovery Center, and other interpretive programs.

AFNHA is collaborating with other National Heritage Areas on a previous Inclusive Storytelling grant project to share other significant and under-told stories from our region. Our [America 250 in the Appalachian Forest](#) program will also include these stories.

Capitol Christmas Tree

For the third time, the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree will come from the Monongahela National Forest. Volunteers and organizations in the AFNHA region have supplied ornaments that will adorn the tree, and community members will have the opportunity to see the tree as it travels through our area on its way to Washington, D.C..

Learn more [HERE](#)



Capitol Christmas Tree events in our area:

- Saturday, Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m. Elkins Depot Welcome Center (315 Railroad Ave, Elkins, WV 26241)
- Sunday, Nov. 5, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Summersville Arena and Conference Center (3 Armory Way, Summersville, WV 26651)
- Monday, Nov. 6, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Mitchell Chevrolet (400 8th St, Marlinton, WV 24954)
- Sunday, Nov. 12, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Swilled Dog/Raymond's Gymnastic Center (28 Industrial Park Road, Upper Tract, WV 26866)
- Monday, Nov. 13, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. DavisYard (533 William Avenue, Davis, WV 26260)
- Tuesday, Nov. 14, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (301 E Main St, Romney, WV 26757)

Events

Click links for more info

- Oct 15-29 | [Family Corn Maze](#) | Brookedale Farm
- Oct 18 | [Pumpkin Palooza](#) | Oakland
- Oct 19 | [Trunk or Treat](#) | Webster County High School
- Oct 20-21 | [Lantern Tours](#) | Beverly Heritage Center
- Oct 21 | [Frostburg Fall Arts Walk](#)
- Oct 21 | [Rock-tober & Roadside Geology](#) | Seneca Rocks Discovery Center
- Oct 21 | [Tails, Trails, & Treats](#) | WV Wildlife Center
- Oct 21-22 | [Berkeley Springs Studio Tour](#)
- Oct 23,25,27 | [Candlelit Cemetery Tours](#) | Lewisburg
- Oct 28 | [Appalachian Arts & Music Festival](#) | Landes Arts Center
- Oct 28 | [Halloween Party at the Park](#) | Burnsville
- Oct 28 | [Waterfall & Full Moon Hike](#) | Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
- Oct 28 | [West Virginia Turkey Festival](#) | Mathias
- Oct 28 | [Craft & Vendor Fair](#) | Masontown
- Oct 29 | [Tick-or-Read](#) | Artefaktual Comics and Games
- Nov 3-4 | [Mountain Makers in the Park](#) | Nicholas Co. Veterans Memorial Park

Regional News

[Keep Maryland Beautiful grants](#) available for community stewardship, capacity building, and forestry projects

The WV State Historic Preservation Office is revising the statewide comprehensive historic preservation plan and wants to [hear your thoughts and ideas](#)

PAWV is currently accepting applications to its [Saving Historic Places Grant](#)

[Nicholas County Community Foundation](#) announces new [Nicholas County Non-Profit Collaborative Group](#) to meet quarterly

Richwood highlighted by [The Hub](#) as a successful example of rural community building

Seneca Skyway driving tour featured by [National Geographic](#)

Area railroads featured as “[Best Southern Train Rides for Fall Foliage](#)” by Southern Living



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