

SEPTEMBER 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](http://afnha.org).



## Special Edition

We've got some exciting news that couldn't wait until next month's newsletter!

Read on to learn about:

**Appalachian Forest Grant Awards**

**Upcoming Training Opportunities**

**Upcoming Events at the Discovery Center**

**Best of West Virginia Awards**





# Grant Awards

AFNHA awarded \$200,000 in grants to area organizations through our new Appalachian Forest Grants program. These projects will support preservation, interpretation, tourism development, and partnership development.

Grantees include:

- Friends of the Cheat: Cheat River Trailhead Interpretive Signage
- Future Generations University: Forest on the Go
- Mountain Heritage Trails, Inc: Restored Humanity: The African American Burial Grounds of Hardy County
- Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation Inc: The Forest Gatehouse Exhibit
- Kump Education Center: Woodland Heritage Lecture Series
- Woodlands Development Group: Lost Towns/Lost Communities
- Randolph County Park and Recreation Board: Historic Schoolhouse Renovation and 4-H museum
- City of Frostburg: Glendening Park Signage
- Helvetia Restoration and Development Organization: Helvetia Historic Signage
- Randolph County Historical Society Inc: Centennial of the RCHS - 100 Years of History
- Allegany Museum Inc: Mountain Maryland Traditional Arts Education Center
- Arthurdale Heritage, Inc: Essential Museum Upgrades and Masonry Restoration
- Greenbrier Valley Archaeology, Inc: Fort Warwick Archaeology and Heritage Tourism
- Greenbrier Valley Repertory Theatre: West Virginia History Play
- Northern Webster County Improvement Council, Inc: Appalachian Heritage-Historical Area
- Pendleton County Convention and Visitor's Bureau: Preparing Pendleton & Sharing Seneca
- Friends of Blackwater: Ecotourism and Heritage Tourism with Friends of Blackwater
- The Old Brick Playhouse Company: OBP Dynamic History Initiative
- West Virginia Highlands Conservancy: Highlands Creatures Coloring Book

Thank you to all who applied. We received almost twice as much requested as we had funds available. So the judgment process was difficult, and inevitably, we had to turn down some very worthwhile projects. We expect to offer this grant program annually.

# Training Opportunities

## **Volunteer Management**

Wednesday, October 11 9:30am-4pm

**Free** to all AFNHA partners and stakeholders, required for AmeriCorps members and supervisors. Lunch provided. Please **RSVP** to [afnha@afnha.org](mailto:afnha@afnha.org)

Location: IOOF building community room in Beverly (718 Main St, Beverly, WV 26253). Parking available behind the building on Water St, or Main St.

Draft schedule:

9:30 welcome and introductions

10-11:30 - "EQ: The Key to Managing Relationships (Especially the Challenging Ones)" with Becky Mathis-Stump, Owner - Ethos Leadership Group, LLC. In this interactive session, we'll focus on the competencies that drive healthy relationships with peers and volunteers, including self-awareness, emotional self-control, empathy, teamwork, and conflict management.

11:30-12:30 - lunch

12:30 - volunteer management training, with breakout groups and discussion.

2:45-4 - Appalachian Forest Volunteers program and using the volunteer portal.

## **Interpretation**

Friday, November 3

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 more TBA.

**Free** and open to all and highly encouraged for AmeriCorps members, partners, and grantees doing interpretation projects.

Location: WV Wood Technology Center (10 11th, Elkins, WV 26241)



# Upcoming Events

The **Appalachian Forest Discovery Center** will be open through the end of October. Come see our **“Material Culture” exhibit** before we close for the season, or attend these FREE special events during the Mountain State Forest Festival:

October 6-7, 10am-4pm

## **Mountain Weavers Guild demonstrations**

Artisans of the Mountain Weavers Guild will host free demonstrations of their craft. Learn more about the fiber arts from demos on loom weaving, spinning and processing wool, dyeing fibers, and felting! Basketmaker Judy Van Gundy will also host demonstrations on splitting white oak for wood weaving. Van Gundy, along with other Mountain Weavers Guild members, is featured in our exhibit.

Friday October 6

## **Dulcimer lesson and workshop: 10am to 12pm**

We will host a free drop-in lesson on the lap dulcimer in the second floor event space at Darden Mill, open to beginners of all ages. Visitors are welcome to come in and out throughout the lesson as they explore all that the Darden Mill has to offer during the festival.

## **Musical performance by *Fair Play*: 4:30pm**

The Richmond, Virginia-based band will play in the second floor event space of the Darden Mill. Downstairs, the Appalachian Forest Discovery Center will extend its hours until 6 p.m.

October 5, 7pm

## **"The 1858 Artists' Excursion on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad"**

A Portrayal of "Porte Crayon" and lecture by Don Teter. Hosted by the West Virginia Railroad Museum.

# Best of WV

We have been nominated for "Best Environmental Organization" in the 2023 Best of West Virginia Awards! You can vote once per day per category (find us under "Culture"). Vote at <https://wvliving.com/best-of-west-virginia-2023>

We are proud to conserve the landscapes, assets, and communities that reflect our Forest Heritage. Thanks for your support!

