

# GROWTH RINGS

## Newsletter of the Forest Heritage Area Project



Vol 1 No 2

### *Second Group Project Meeting - April 3 & 4*

The next general project meeting will be held in Elkins, starting Wednesday afternoon, April 3 with a variety of tours and field trips to see local forest heritage assets. Wednesday evening will feature speaker presentations plus food, socializing, and entertainment. Thursday, April 4, we'll continue with the group planning begun in November, facilitated by Bob Davis, with Task Group meeting reports, sharing of ideas, working on answers to vexing questions and luncheon speaker Scott Standish, from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

This newsletter will give you the information you need to plan your attendance at this meeting. **PLEASE send the RSVP back to us as directed**, so we will be able to plan for tours and food. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the project and participating is invited to attend – so help spread the word!!

### *Agenda*

#### **Wednesday, April 3**

- 11:30 to 5:30 pm – registration at Elkins Depot.
- Wood Products & Eco tour leave at 12, others at 1:00
- 5:00 Room check-in and Dinner on own.
- 7:30 Reception at Randolph County Community Arts Center, Randolph Avenue at Park St.
- 8:00 Presentations, refreshments, & music

#### **Thursday, April 4**

- 8:00 Registration and coffee at Days Inn
- 9:00 Welcome and discussion session
- 10:30 Task Groups meet
- 12:15 Lunch (included)  
Speaker, Scott Standish, “Harnessing Heritage -- The Lancaster County, PA Experience”
- 1:30 TG Reports and discussion, next steps
- 3:30 Adjourn

### *Tours*

Tours will be Wednesday afternoon April 3. Please RSVP which tour you plan to attend – some tours may be cancelled if not enough interest; some may have to be limited to certain numbers. We will provide vans – if you would rather drive and/or join the tour in process, please indicate that on your RSVP. Tours finish at 5 pm

### **Wood Products -- from Forestry to Finished product**

Tour led by Terry Jones, WV Division of Forestry & Paul Schreffler, Wood Technology Center

- 12:00 Leave Elkins Depot (NOTE START TIME)
- 12:30 Alpena area – Will Hertig, PhD, landowner will help show hardwood woodlots of differing ages and types of management
- 2:45 Greenfield Cabinetry, state-of-the-art fabrication of quality wood products
- 3:30 Wood Tech Center – Laser-engraved wood products, high-tech applications & training facilities
- 4:00 Myles Lumber Company – sawmill, wood kilns

### **Forest Ecology Tour**

Tour led by Bill Grafton WVU, Brian McDonald WV DNR, and Thomas Minney The Nature Conservancy

- 12:00 Leave Elkins Depot
- 1:00 Gaudineer Knob, old-growth remnant spruce forest
- 2:30 Nature Conservancy preserve at Cheat Bridge on the Upper Shavers Fork

### **Building with wood – Ante-bellum craftsmanship, Boom-era extravagance, and Modern creativity**

- 1:00 Leave from Elkins Depot Visitor Center
- 1:15 Lemuel Chenoweth house in Beverly – see unique craftsmanship of restored home built by famed bridgebuilder. Includes model sawmill designed by Chenoweth, and model of Beverly covered bridge.
- 2:00 Tour of David Goff house used as Beverly Union hospital, and now Historic Beverly Antique Mall
- 2:45 St. Brendan's Catholic Church – uniquely designed new church with imaginative use of local wood
- 3:30 Tour of Graceland Inn and Halliehurst – elaborate “summer home” mansions of Henry Gassaway Davis and Stephen B. Elkins, founders of Elkins. National Historic Landmarks.

### **Forest Artisans Tour**

- 1:00 Leave Depot
- 1:15 Visit Guitar maker
- 2:30 Visit Appalachian Pieceworks with demonstrations - wood crafts, basketry, forest dyes, etc.
- 4:00 Walk to Artists At Work artist cooperative

## *Evening Presentation*

We are inviting some participant groups to show slide shows or presentations of forest resources that they have to share. If your group would like to present at this or later meetings, please contact the coordinators.

## *Luncheon Speaker*

Scott Standish joined the Lancaster County Planning Commission in 1981, and oversees the development and implementation of the County's Comprehensive Plan. Scott has also been serving as the coordinator for Lancaster County Heritage Partnership Program since its inception in 1994. Additionally, Scott is the project coordinator for the Lancaster-York Heritage Region - a PA Heritage Park in both Lancaster and York Counties.

Scott also serves as the Vice-President of the PA Heritage Parks Association, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, and chairs the newly formed Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

## *Facilitator*

Bob Davis, Director of Appalachian Programs for The Mountain Institute, has graciously agreed to facilitate the April 4 meeting in the absence of George Constantz. Bob holds M.A. degrees from Yale and American University. He has worked in TMI's projects since 1979. He is an experienced facilitator and teaches organizational development and management at JMU.

## *Food and Lodging*

The following restaurants are suggested as possible "gathering places" for Wednesday evening dinner for socializing and discussion – please wear your name tags and introduce yourself to other FHT participants. A list of other restaurants will be included in your registration packet.

- C.J. Maggie's – 309 Davis Ave downtown. *Bistro fare, nostalgic décor*
- Due North (restaurant) and Beanders (pub) – 314 Davis Ave downtown. *Local watering hole.*
- Iron Horse Manor – corner of Randolph Ave and Kerens St near downtown. *Upscale Italian cuisine in an intimate atmosphere.*
- Duke's Steakhouse – on the 5-Lane (Rt 219/250) at Chenoweth Creek Road. *An Elkins institution.*

The meeting hotel and Thursday main meeting will be at the Days Inn of Elkins, 1200 Harrison Ave., phone 304/637-4667. A block of rooms for Wednesday night are held until March 22 at \$53 single/55 double -- say for "Forest Heritage Trail" when you reserve. Limited financial assistance is available, if you need assistance with lodging or travel please let us know. The Randolph County Visitor Center 800/422-3304 has a complete list of other lodging, including Bed & Breakfasts.

## *Trail or Heritage Area?*

At the November meeting, one of the ambiguities of the discussion revolved around "what do we mean by Trail. A common assumption of the meaning of Trail includes the idea of a physical path – a hiking trail being the most common concrete example. Most if not all of those participating in the November discussion seemed comfortable with the idea that we were thinking of something different from this definition.

One of the guest articles in the first newsletter described a series of driving tours, with brochures and

maps, based on forest themes. Another description used at the meeting was a virtual trail tour, with information provided on-line to allow the visitors to tailor their own visit to their needs. These are only a few of the excellent ideas we can draw upon in developing this project.

The other idea brought out in this discussion in November was the Heritage Area. One group suggested: "A Heritage Area encompassing different sites, themes, modes of travel, and educational opportunities focused on the forest: its people, industry, culture, communities, history, and future."

*The Trail* we are talking about is a thematic trail that involves sites and activities connected by a common theme. This trail may be described on a web page, in a brochure, and/or with signs on the ground. It may include physical paths or specific directions, but is not necessarily limited to them.

### *What is a Heritage Area?*

A heritage area is a place with a distinctive history and geography where residents seek to develop their natural and cultural heritage to enhance the region's well being. Heritage areas have identifiable, nationally important resources, a story of broad interest to tell, and public-private support for investment in the community.

"Getting Started in Heritage Area Development" by Shelley Mastran, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Information Bulletin

Some Heritage Areas are nationally designated, though the process to achieve this designation is variable. Many states have statewide Heritage Area designations – Maryland does; West Virginia does not at this time, though a program is being considered. But more than official designation, the term refers to both the geographic region – a place – and to a framework for collaborative development – a process. The reasons behind most Heritage Areas have been for economic development, often in a region where a traditional industry is in decline, and/or for resource preservation. Industrial themes are often common denominators. Heritage Areas vary widely in size, scope, and shape, but the idea is that residents and visitors view the region as a whole, with coherent understanding and interpretation of its history, geography, culture, and natural features. (cont p 3)

## *News from our Pilot Communities*

**Elkins**— In May, Elkins will host the WVU Community Design Team (CDT). The CDT is a diverse “Team” of faculty, students, and other professionals who assist WV communities in strategizing revitalization efforts. A team of 18-20 individuals, from a variety of disciplines, will visit the Elkins community, May 16-18, for a weekend design charette.

The CDT has been asked to investigate strategies that will help Elkins become a Heritage Tourism destination. The team members will look specifically at ways to bolster business development, improve landscape design, aesthetics and planning, promote traffic and pedestrian safety, and improve leadership, communication and communication among the various community organizations.

The meetings and presentation are open to all Elkins residents and the CDT encourages everyone to participate. To learn more about the Elkins CDT visit, contact Phyllis Baxter—304-637-7424

**Webster Springs**—The *Woodchopper’s Village* has been a vision of Webster Springs community long before the FHT “came-to-town”. In fact, the potential of the *Village* was a driving force in the selection of Webster Springs as a pilot community. On March 14<sup>th</sup> the effort moves a step closer with the unveiling of the economic and design feasibility studies.

The Woodchopper’s Village is an effort to more definitively establish Webster Springs as a tourism destination point. The development will create a themed attraction that will serve as venue for The Woodchopper’s Festival, timbersport competitions, and have the ability to host other attractions and meetings. The pro-

posed village may also include such things as gift shops, a museum/hall of fame, exhibition sawmill & interactive displays.

The feasibility studies will be presented at the Region IV planning office in Summersville, WV. For more information contact the Webster County Development Authority, Geary Weir, 304 847-2145, [wcda@WebsterWV.com](mailto:wcda@WebsterWV.com)

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### ***Trail or Heritage Area?*** Continued from page 2

Heritage Areas are very diverse, but most share a number of characteristics. They will have compelling themes and stories to tell – either based around one basic idea or several. They will identify their resources, interpret them thematically, and present them to the public. Usually they combine preservation of resources, heritage tourism, and community economic development. Heritage tourism brings people to the area to have fun and be educated at the same time, giving them the opportunity to spend money in the region, and take home an appreciation of the rich heritage they shared. And to be successful, Heritage Areas will involve planning together and partnerships among a broad and diverse group of stakeholders.

How do these models fit with our vision? What will work best for our area?

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### ***Contact Us***

For more information, comments or details, or if you want meeting info sent to someone new, please contact Jeremy or Phyllis, the project co-coordinators.

Jeremy Morris 304/293-2141 x4399 <jmorris5@wvu.edu>

Phyllis Baxter 304/637-7424 <phyllisb@meer.net>

**Please RSVP if you plan to attend the April 3-4 Project Meeting.**

**Mail this form to:** Jeremy Morris, PO Box 6125, Morgantown WV 26506

Or email all the requested information to: <jmorris5@wvu.edu>

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

FAX:

Email:

Which tour do you plan to attend?  Wood Products  Forest Ecology *both NOON start*  
 Building with Wood  Forest Artisans *both 1 pm start*

*Forest Heritage Area/Forestry Heritage Trail Newsletter*

IMPORTANT MEETING INFORMATION  
ENCLOSED

*Please Take A Few Moments to Read*

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