

**APPALACHIAN FOREST HERITAGE AREA**

## Volunteer! MVP

The MVP: Monongahela Volunteer Program is busy developing and organizing conservation-based volunteer and eco-tourism opportunities. Since its beginning, the MVP has worked as a collaborative partner with many area organizations. MVP volunteers have planted over 7000 trees and 2 native plant gardens, surveyed 32 miles of forest trail and 842 acres of forest land for Non-Native Invasive Species,

co-sponsored the Garlic Mustard Challenge which has removed thousands of pounds of the NNIS Garlic Mustard, and raised awareness of the importance of conservation



and the value of forest products. This year the MVP has

set out to accomplish even more! We'll be hiking trails, fording streams, pulling NNIS, planting trees, and much more! Sign up today by emailing:

[volunteerism@appalachianforest.us](mailto:volunteerism@appalachianforest.us)

### Other Opportunities

The AFHA AmeriCorps team based in Marlinton is planning a tree planting at Sharp's Knob on April 9, 2011. Join us on April 8<sup>th</sup> for our stakeholders meeting at the Pocahontas County Public Library in Marlinton, and then lend a helping hand in planting trees on the 9<sup>th</sup>!

In celebration of Arbor Day, on April 30<sup>th</sup> the MVP will be lending a helping hand to the CASRI effort, planting native red spruce at Barton's Bench.

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- April 2 - Park Day cleanup at Rich Mountain Battlefield
- April 9 - Sharp's Knob tree planting, Pocahontas Co
- April 16-17 - Red Spruce planting, Canaan Valley NWR
- April 30 - Arbor Day red spruce planting, Barton's Bench, CASRI
- April 30 - Garlic mustard pull, Summit Lake
- April 30 - Garlic mustard pull, Ice Mountain Preserve
- May 7 - Garlic mustard pull, Seneca Rocks Discovery Center
- May 7 - Garlic mustard pull, Greenbrier State Forest
- May 13 - Garlic mustard pull, Sugar Grove Naval Base
- May 14 - Garlic mustard pull, Big Bend Campground
- May 20 - Garlic mustard pull, Fernow Experimental Forest
- May 21 - Garlic mustard pull, Greenbrier State Forest
- May 21 - Park Day cleanup at Rich Mountain Battlefield
- May 21/22 - Garlic mustard pull, Blue Bend Campground
- May 28 - Garlic mustard pull, Pocahontas 4-H Camp

Watch for additional events - for more information see:  
[www.appalachianforest.us/volunteerism](http://www.appalachianforest.us/volunteerism)  
 or email [volunteerism@appalachianforest.us](mailto:volunteerism@appalachianforest.us)

## AFHA AmeriCorps – Getting Things Done

The torch has been passed to yet another team of AFHA AmeriCorps, made possible by funding from Volunteer West Virginia and the Corporation for National and Community Service. This year's team comes from all around the country, bringing with them diverse backgrounds and skill sets. After training, each member is placed with an area sponsor that represents the AFHA mission. With twenty members this year placed in heritage development and tourism, historic preservation, and environmental conservation sites, AFHA AmeriCorps is going strong and "making a difference" in the

*(AMERICORPS Continued on page 3)*

# Paint, Epoxy, and Windows ... Oh My!

by **Crystal Whitters**, AFHA AmeriCorps Historic Preservation team

The historic preservation team is receiving a well-rounded introduction to historic preservation. From hands-on restoration to real estate development, team members Joey Aloji, Dan Melena, Terry Hackney, Zach Swick, and Crystal Whitters are learning about the diverse field of reusing valuable resources in communities. In addition to various levels of construction experience, each member contributes a knowledge area to the team: Joey, window restoration; Dan, landscape design; Terry, master carpentry; Zach, demolition; and Crystal, architectural drafting. During the first several months of service the team has been working with community members in Elkins and Beverly at four sites: Riverside School, The Gum Hart / Collett House, Elkins City Hall, and the Darden Mill.

Standing on ladders and scraping paint at the Collett House in Beverly is how the five historic preservation team members began their service term in Beverly, WV. The site sponsor for the Collett House is the Beverly Heritage Center, under the direction of Chelley Depp. The original log "fort" was probably built in the 1770s by Montgomery "Gum" Hart. Later owners applied additions to grow into the house still standing today. Andrew J. Collett



*Saving a window*

and family owned the house 1871-1948. The two-story L-shaped house with a Federal-style entryway served as a hospital during the Civil War. Before the first snowfall, the team reached a good stopping point for scraping and painting, with nearly all of the exterior clear of the old paint and covered with a fresh coat of paint.

Back in Elkins, the team worked with AmeriCorps alum and site supervisor Joe Sabatino, on the rehabilitation of Riverside School. Riverside School, was the historic school built to educate the African American population in and around Elkins. It was built in two phases: the first story

in 1906 for eight grades and the second story in 1925 to expand the school for ten grades. After the school closed in 1954 due to school integration, it passed from several owners until its last incarnation as a mechanic's garage. In preparation for the rehabilitation, the team organized the first floor classroom/garage conversion into an organized workshop equipped with lumber,

hardware, and tools. The Riverside School rehabilitation has been a valuable resource for the team to learn about a critical component of historic preservation – the bid process. In preparation for the bid package that contained the scope of work, the team learned how to map the areas on each elevation that are in need of brick re-pointing. Additionally, they surveyed the windows, noting the existing condition of the windows such as missing sashes and muntins. One of the members, Crystal, drew as-built

drawings of the school to accompany the scope of work.

As the mercury declined and the snow began to fall from the sky, the team moved their AmeriCorps service operation indoors. After receiving training from fellow team member Joey on window restoration, the team repaired windows from the Darden Mill and began restoring the windows from the fourth floor/penthouse of Elkins City Hall. The Elkins City Hall is an interesting case in adaptive reuse. Built in 1917, it was originally home to the Elkins Post Office and Federal Building. Today, it contains city offices, City Council chambers, and the police station.

In addition to providing hands-on restoration support to four buildings in the area, the team has received training in Elkins and at the Preservation

Alliance West Virginia state-wide preservation conference. At the conference we learned from master plasterer Sarel Venter how to repair historic plaster and back in Elkins Joe Sabatino trained us on how to reconstitute deteriorated wood. Joe trained the team on wood windows, and they applied the knowledge to repairing some of the clapboards on the Collett House.



*200 years of old paint: The Collett House*

The team is using this knowledge as they engage in their winter indoor project – the restoration of the wood windows from Elkins City Hall.

Additionally, the AmeriCorps members are assisting with an often overlooked, yet vital component of historic preservation – real estate development. The project for this aspect of preservation is First Ward School in Elkins. Built in 1902, the school has stood vacant for nearly 20 years. Zach completed a marketing prospectus and the team is currently researching potential developers and possible adaptive reuse for the school.

## Service Projects:

As if all that weren't enough, in their "spare time" members have organized several service projects ranging from dump site cleanup and garden planting to helping with Martin Luther King Jr. Day events. They have planned events to recycle electronics and old paint, and are sponsoring upcoming events for tree planting and building bird & bat houses. For more information or to help with a service project email: [volunteerism@appalchianforest.us](mailto:volunteerism@appalchianforest.us)

# Appalachian Forest Heritage Area 2011 Spring Stakeholders Meeting Marlinton, Pocahontas County, WV

McClintic Public Library  
500 Eighth Street—Marlinton

## Planned Agenda:

### Friday, April 8, 2011 – AFHA Stakeholders Meeting

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 9:30 am      | Welcome and Introductions   |
| 10:00 am     | Getting Things Done - AFHA AmeriCorps Accomplishments   |
| 11:00 am     | <b>The Resilient Forest -</b><br>Preview of NEW video program by Augusta Heritage Center and AFHA   |
| 12:15 pm     | Lunch provided (donation appreciated)   |
| 12:30 pm     | History & Tourism in Marlinton - Panel will include:<br>Gail Hyer, Pocahontas Co CVB and B.J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer                         |
| 1:15 pm      | Brief AFHA Council meeting  |
| 1:30-4:30 pm | Tour of Marlinton forest heritage assets, including:<br>Historic downtown<br>Pocahontas Woods w/Executive Director Richard Horton<br>Wyatt Nature Trail |



### Saturday, April 9, 2011 – Tree Planting at Sharp's Knob

The AFHA AmeriCorps team based in Marlinton is planning a tree planting at Sharp's Knob on Saturday, April 9th. Stakeholders are invited to stay and participate in this special event. More information will be available at the stakeholders meeting or on the AFHA web site. ([www.appalachianforest.us](http://www.appalachianforest.us))

RSVP

**RSVP** – We need to know who is attending so we know how many lunches to order.  
Please let us know if you plan to attend!

**RSVP** to [afha@appalachianforest.us](mailto:afha@appalachianforest.us) or to **304-636-6182**

For lodging and other area information please visit the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitor's Bureau website: [www.pocahontascountywv.com](http://www.pocahontascountywv.com)

RSVP

*(AMERICORPS Continued from page 1)*

AFHA! Here is an update on this team's activities, with a special report from the Historic Preservation team. Come to the Stakeholders meeting on April 8 to meet the members and see them in action!


### Heritage AmeriCorps:

AFHA AmeriCorps heritage program sponsors have praised the work of this year's team! Just since September, they have: cataloged historic documents and artifacts, created a new library at the Darden House, prepared the Elkins Depot for the upcoming tourism season, brought the EBT food card to the Elkins farmers market, developed tourism and fundraising in Arthurdale, and continue to support the ongoing development of the Beverly Heritage Center and Rich Mountain Battlefield. This year marks the especially challenging and rewarding 150th anniversary of the First Campaign of the Civil War and AFHA AmeriCorps members have been an integral part of the planning and preparation for this commemoration.

### Conservation AmeriCorps:

This year's conservation sponsors include the USDA Forest Service, Monongahela National Forest, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. AFHA AmeriCorps conservation members are based out of Elkins, Marlinton, and Richwood. A sampling of their work this year includes: GPS-mapping trails and forest features, developing strategic planning documents, developing and installing interpretive signage, educational outreach, bird, bat and vernal pool monitoring, NNIS identification and eradication, and more!



See AFHA on Facebook! 

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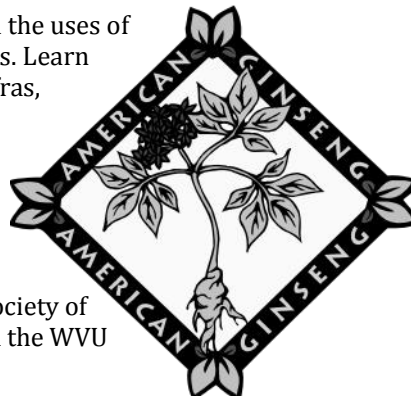
## Mountain Roots Workshops

Discover the lore, tradition, and science behind the uses of Appalachia's most popular native medicinal roots. Learn about ginseng, goldenseal, solomon's seal, sassafras, yellowroot, and more!

Instructor: Herbalist Mimi Hernandez of the Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies at Frostburg State.

Registration at door is \$5. Students are free with ID. Light refreshments will be served.

This seminar is sponsored in part by the WV Society of American Foresters, Frostburg State (ACES), and the WVU Extension Service. 2 CAT 1 SAF CFEs.



**Hampshire County - April 18, 2011**  
Call Jerry Leather Hampshire County Extension Agent; 304-822-5013

**Pocahontas County -- April 20th**  
Call Greg Hamons,  
Pocahontas County Extension Agent:  
304-799-4852

Information on these and other woodland related workshops can be found at:

<http://wvstewards.ning.com>

GROWTH RINGS is the periodic newsletter of the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc., in partnership with West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Extension Services. Our mission is to work locally to conserve, develop, interpret, and promote a regional network of forest-based resources and experiences in the highlands of West Virginia and Maryland for the enjoyment and appreciation of residents and visitors in order to enhance economic and community development.



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