



NEWSLETTER OF THE APPALACHIAN FOREST HERITAGE AREA

AmeriCorps Team Starts Work

AFHA has been awarded a \$126,000 state AmeriCorps project grant, from the Corporation for National Service through the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service. This grant is providing AFHA with 10 full-time AmeriCorps members to work on heritage tourism development, conservation, and historic preservation projects. Members are being sponsored by partner organizations, which are providing the 15% non-federal cash match for the member costs. Some of the members will be working directly on AFHA sponsored projects (thanks to our donated funds!) such as driving tours and Rothkugel Plantation.

The 10 selected AmeriCorps members are starting their service on October 1. We are extremely fortunate to have a highly talented and qualified team who are making this year-long commitment to AFHA. Most of them will be attending the fall stakeholders meeting, so you will have the chance to meet them then.

AFHA will also be gaining a new half-time employee. Melvin Lester has been hired to provide the administrative oversight and bookkeeping for the AmeriCorps program, as well as to supervise the historic preservation AmeriCorps team. Melvin served as a VISTA for partner organization Mountain Partners in Community Development last year, developing preservation trades training opportunities. He has a degree in Historic Preservation from Mary Washington University, as well as over 25 years experience as an accountant.

NPS Gives Thumbs UP

The National Park Service, after over a year review process, has approved the AFHA Feasibility Study. The NPS letter states that "the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area meets the National Park Service criteria . . . for potential Congressional designation as a national heritage area." This is a very important step forward in our National Heritage Area efforts, and should clear the way for introduction of our designation bill.



Forest Heritage From Many Points of View

Dr. Dave Smaldone, WVU interpretation professor, will facilitate "Finding Common Ground: How we interpret diverse viewpoints" at our fall stakeholder meeting to be held October 19 in Rowlesburg.

Bringing together diverse partners is a primary goal of AFHA, and represents both our strength, and a major challenge. From the earliest days of the project in discussions of whether we were talking about "forest" or "forestry" and what each term represented, we have consciously sought engagement from forest industry, environmental, tourism, historic, business, and community stakeholders and organizations. Our bylaws established balanced representation of diverse interests, and our Core Values statements affirm balance and fairness.

As we develop interpretive exhibits, brochures and other messages, how we should present issues – and even facts – is subject to a variety of viewpoints. Our Core Values pledge "presenting messages in entertaining formats with scholarly accuracy, balanced presentation of differing viewpoints, and respect for the complexity of the issues." But what does this mean in practice?

At our upcoming meeting, we will participate in an interactive workshop to start addressing some of these concerns. We will use actual issues of concern to AFHA stakeholders as examples, and discuss how we might want to present these issues to our audiences. We will learn to understand other points of view and build consensus on how to present the complexity of forest history, conservation, sustainability, and multiple use issues. We will work towards establishing a consensus of common values on interpreting the broad themes of forest heritage, with clarity on where we agree to disagree and how we present each viewpoint fairly and effectively. This will set the stage for concrete interpretation projects such as signage and brochures, as well as site and welcome center exhibits.

We urge all who have participated in interpretation task group or museum planning to attend, as well as representatives of all interest groups.

AFHA Participates in Centennial Celebration

On April 10, Maryland DNR Forest Service celebrated the 100 year mark for the Garrett State Forest and the Kindness Demonstration Forest. AFHA provided a minigrant to develop the interpretive signs along the demonstration area trail. Francis Zumbrun and John Denning (MD DNR Foresters) officiated at the ceremonies and acknowledged AFHA for its contribution to the Kindness project.



Francis Zumbrun tells the story of the Garrett State Forest.

Upcoming Events Sampler

Below are a few upcoming events – let us know about yours! Also, watch AFHA web site for the Arts Calendar for Randolph and surrounding counties.

Mountain State Forest Festival, Elkins WV, Sept 29 – Oct 7,
Visit the AFHA display in the City Park.

International Bergoo Stew Cook-off Webster Springs, WV
October 6 304-847-7291 Cooking competition for the local meat
stew, with children's activities, live music, arts and crafts.

Blackwater Falls/Canaan Valley Wild Walks Weekend
Davis, WV October 6, 7 304-259-5217 8-mile hike between
Blackwater Falls State Park and Canaan Valley Resort State Park,
with a cook-out lunch, souvenir.

Berkeley Springs State Park Apple Butter Festival
Berkeley Springs, WV October 6, 7 304-258-5860 Parade, apple
butter making, old time games, arts, crafts, mountain cooking.

Autumn Glory Festival, 40th Annual Garrett County Maryland.
Oct 10-14. Grand Feature Parade, Maryland State Banjo & Fiddle
Contest, much more www.visitdeepcreek.com

Taste Of Our Towns Festival (T.O.O.T.) Lewisburg, Oct 13
Enjoy foods of Appalachia as well as specialties from The Green-
brier, Tamarack and the Greenbrier Valley's own restaurants.
TOOT features live music, museum exhibits, a juried art and craft
show, a street dance, pony rides and Kids' Scene. Hours: 11am-
3pm. www.carnegiehallwv.com/events/toot.htm

**Augusta Heritage Center Old Time Week & Fiddler's
Reunion** Elkins, WV, Oct 21 – 28 featuring classes, dance, con-
certs and more www.augustaheritage.com, 800-624-3157

Carbon Sequestering

What's that? AFHA is getting a special chance to find out as Rick Constantino from Forecon, Inc. (a forestry and natural resource firm with offices in New York, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Michigan) will give us a presentation on their Forest Carbon Offsets program. Market-based mechanisms to help address climate change are creating opportunities for increasing return on investments available to managed forests, as well as afforestation/ reforestation projects. Voluntary forest carbon markets are evolving in the United States for evaluating, registering, verifying, and trading carbon credits for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturers and utilities. Come learn how this works at the upcoming Fall AFHA Stakeholder Meeting.

AFHA Represented at NFF Event

AFHA Executive Director Phyllis Baxter recently attended a National Forest Foundation Community Assistance Program Technical Assistance Workshop in Tucson, Arizona. All expenses were paid by NFF.

The workshop featured over 20 organizations, most from the west, who work with National Forests. Networking with a variety of collaborative organizations was very valuable. Some are dealing heads-on with difficult issues of appropriate logging, fire issues, and wilderness management. Others are "friends groups" who support projects on specific Forests. The workshop provided training in conflict resolution, communications, fundraising, and ecotourism.

AFHA is in a second \$15,000 CAP grant for start-up assistance. The National Forest Foundation is the non-profit support group for our National Forests. The CAP grants are to promote the creation of locally-based, collaborative partnerships which seek to build ecological, social and economic sustainability.

Forestry Tours and Workshops

October 11-14. Coverts/Master Forestland Owner Workshop. Three-day workshop at Camp Caesar, Webster County featuring topics on forest and wildlife management. Lodging and meals free. Contact Dave McGill (dmcgill@wvu.edu) or Bill Grafton for details and application.

October 23, 2007. AFHA Coopers Rock S.F. Walk in the Woods. Casual evening walk will discuss tree identification with particular attention to fall colors and how to identify leafless trees. The group will pass through the famous crop tree demonstration area as well. Meet at 5:30pm. For more information, contact Dave McGill (dmcgill@wvu.edu; 304-293-2941 x 2474).

Watch www.appalachianforest.us for upcoming forestry tours.

Fall Stakeholders Meeting

October 18 & 19, 2007

Preston County, West Virginia

Please RSVP if you plan to attend (see bottom)

Tour Details:

Meet at Bill Slagle's Walnut Meadows Farm

10:30am. Tour will include nature trail, forest management, ginseng farm and other specialty agro-forestry activities. Bring a bag lunch and we will picnic on the grounds.

Meet at Rowlesburg World War II Museum at

2:30pm. Tour will include a guided tour of Cannon Hill Civil War, weather permitting, the World War II museum, and the renovated B&O Depot and caboose. There is a \$5 admission charge for the museum, and \$5 for the Cannon Hill tour.

Board Meeting: The AFHA Board will meet over dinner Thursday evening at Monroe's Restaurant in Kingwood. We will start approximately 6:30, depending on the length of the tour. Other AFHA stakeholders are welcome to have dinner here at a different table, or at other restaurants in the area.

Friday Stakeholders and Council Meeting at Rowlesburg VFW Hall. Two special program activities – Forest Carbon Offset presentation, and Interpretation Workshop. Lunch donation of \$10 each will be requested.

Lodging:

Hildreth Motel, Kingwood. 304-329-1145 Rates (includes tax) Single occupancy \$49.05, Double occupancy is \$55.59. A few rooms are blocked under "AFHA". Call to make your own reservations

Preston Inn, Kingwood. Historic Inn, 304-329-2220 or 1-800 252-3271, www.prestoncountyinn.com. Rates from \$70 to \$125 depending on room. No block, so call soon!

Thursday October 18th

10:30 am	Tour of Walnut Meadows Farm
2:30 pm	Rowlesburg WWII Museum and Cannon Hill
6:30 pm	Board dinner and meeting

Friday October 19th

9:30 am	Introductions and Updates
10:30 am	Forest Carbon Offsets Rick Constantino (Forecon, Inc.)
12:00 noon	Luncheon
1:00 pm	Finding Common Ground: How We Interpret Diverse Viewpoints Facilitated by Dr. Dave Smaldone
3:00 pm	Council Meeting

Directions:

To Walnut Meadows Farm:

From I 68 driving east from Morgantown, take exit 29 Hazelton, turn right end of ramp, straight through town 3 miles to first left after town which is Mountain Dale Road. Turn left and go 2 miles and the farm is on the right. Sign at driveway Walnut Meadows

From I68 driving west in Maryland, exit Friendsville MD, left at end of ramp, parallel interstate past Citgo station to top of hill. Take left on Blooming Rose Road over Interstate, go 3 miles to farm sign.

To Kingwood & Rowlesburg:

Directions from I-68. Get off at Bruceton Mills exit. Take Route 26 south to Albright. In Albright, cross the Cheat River bridge which takes you into Kingwood. At the stop light, go on Rt. 26 south about 1/2 mile to the Hildreth Motel. To go to Preston County Inn, turn right at the stop light, take Rt. 7 west. There will be another stop light and half-way up the hill (and before the next stop light) Monroe's restaurant is on the left. A big red building with a black awning with Monroe's written on it. To reach Preston County Inn, go through next stop light, pass the courthouse and the Inn is located on the right, just across from the Preston County Jail. There is a sign out front.

From Morgantown, take Route 7 east through Masontown and Reedsville. At

4-way stop stay on Rt. 7 east into Kingwood. Pass WesBanco, go one block and you will see Preston County Inn on the left. On next block after stop light, Monroe's is on the right. Stay on Rt. 7 east through next stop light. At third light, at Clear Mountain Bank, take a right about 1/2 mile to the Hildreth Motel.

From Kingwood to Rowlesburg – take Rt. 7 east to the bottom of Caddell hill (1 mile). At the bridge, take Rt. 72 south to Rowlesburg (about 10 miles). Right before you get into town you will see a sign "Sander's Sawmill". The museum is the building on the right and the Visitor's Center is on the left. Neither are large buildings, but both hold a wealth of treasures.

From the museum keep on Rt. 72 south until you reach the Community park. Take a right to another 4-way stop. To reach the VFW go left one block. The VFW hall is right across from Clear Mountain Bank. The dining room is in the lower level, and there is a small parking lot behind the building. Parking on the street is not metered.

To B&O depot and caboose, go straight at the 4-way stop, cross the tracks and you will see the caboose and the depot is right behind it.

From the south to Kingwood: Take Rt 92 north from US 50, go right on Rt 26 to Kingwood.

From the south to Rowlesburg: Take Rt 72 north from US 50.

RSVP

If you are planning to attend any portion of the meeting, please RSVP so that we will have count for meals and tours, and can send you updates of any last minute information. We need to give a lunch count by 10/15, so please try to RSVP by that date. You are still welcome even without RSVP, but you'll take your chances on enough food. Council and Board members please confirm your attendance or send proxy for our quorum count. Send RSVP by email to afha@appalachianforest.us or call 636-6182.

RSVP



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Appalachian Forest Heritage Area
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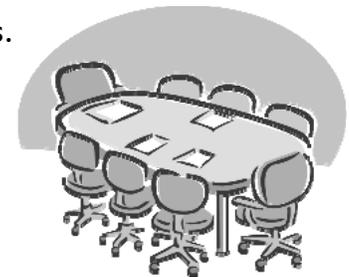


"Growth Rings" is the periodic newsletter of the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc., in partnership with West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Extension Services.

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.

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area **Fall Stakeholders Meeting** October 18 & 19, 2007 Preston County, West Virginia

Learn about Forest Carbon Offsets.
Participate in discussing how we
present forest heritage issues.
Explore tree farm and heritage
sites in Preston County.
YOU are a stakeholder!
Hope you can come...



SEE DETAILS INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

For more information about AFHA, for address corrections or additions,
or to be added to our email announcement list, please contact:

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