

MAY 2024

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.



Stakeholder Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Colonial Arts Center

48 E. Main Street Buckhannon, WV 26201

Join us for our Annual Stakeholder Meeting to learn how AFNHA can support you, and network with partners across the AFNHA.

Register [HERE!](#)

Draft Agenda:

9:30 am to 10:00 am - Registration open

10:00 am to 11:00 -

- Introduction and Welcome
- About AFNHA Programs
- What are National Heritage Areas?
- Annual Membership Meeting

11:15 - 12:15 - Themed Breakout Discussions

- Conservation/Outdoor Recreation
- Heritage/Community Development

12:15-12:30 - Break

12:30 - 1:30 - Lunch

1:30 - Breakout discussion reports

1:45 - Upshur County Projects and Partners Panel

- Create Buckhannon
- Upshur County Trails
- Buckhannon River Watershed Association
- West Virginia Division of Forestry

2:45 Closing remarks

3:15 - Upshur County History Center open

Discover Upshur County before or after the event
([see curated list](#))



Indigenous Voices in Appalachia

Our newest interpretive program will kick off with the opening of our new rotating exhibit, "Creating Home: Indigenous Roots and Connections in the Appalachian Forest". The exhibit will be open to the public from May through October at the Appalachian Forest Discovery Center (Darden Mill, 101 Railroad Ave, Elkins).

We will celebrate with a free Exhibit Opening Event at the Darden Mill on May 18 featuring a Seneca Artisans Showcase.

Schedule:

9:30 - 5:30 Artisans showcase with vendor tables

Special demonstrations throughout the day:

9:30 Penny Minner - Split Black Ash Baskets

10:45 Bernadette Scott - Corn as Art

12:00 Chef Lorinda John - Three Sisters Fritters

1:15 Mary Jacobs - Haudenosaunee Clothing From Coverings to Fashion

2:30 Samantha Jacobs - Moccasin Making

4:00 Cliff Redeye - Leatherwork

(Leatherwork class Sunday 12-4, \$25 by reservation)

5:30 Exhibit Opening Address - Joe Stahlman

Followed by Supper featuring Appalachian Foods with Native Influence
(supper by donation, RSVP encouraged to discovery@afnha.org)

Join us during the summer and fall of 2024 for more Native exhibits and programs across AFNHA. The next event, planned for June 29, will feature Indigenous dancers. Watch our website and newsletter for more info. Contact us if you are doing your own programming related to indigenous history or culture. This program is supported with funding from the National Park Foundation, The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History, and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

AmeriCorps News

Welcome New Staff

Last month we were joined by Carolyn Cocola, our new AmeriCorps Program Manager. Since 2012, Carolyn has enjoyed the scenic mountain views and wildlife as a resident of West Virginia. Before living in Belington, West Virginia, she lived in Connecticut and Florida. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Service in 2001 and her Master's Degree in Business Administration in 2008. She enjoys playing with her pets, spending time with her family and being outdoors. Carolyn is a lifelong learner. She leans heavily on her humanitarian approach to bring positive change to herself and others in the community.

Her role will include recruiting, retention, and maintaining compliance standards for the AmeriCorps Members and AmeriCorps Sites. Fun times with an emphasis on community involvement, Let's Make A Difference!



AmeriCorps Member Recruiting

On May 28, we will begin accepting member applications for our 2024-25 service term.

If you submitted a site application, we will contact you within the next week regarding the status of your application.

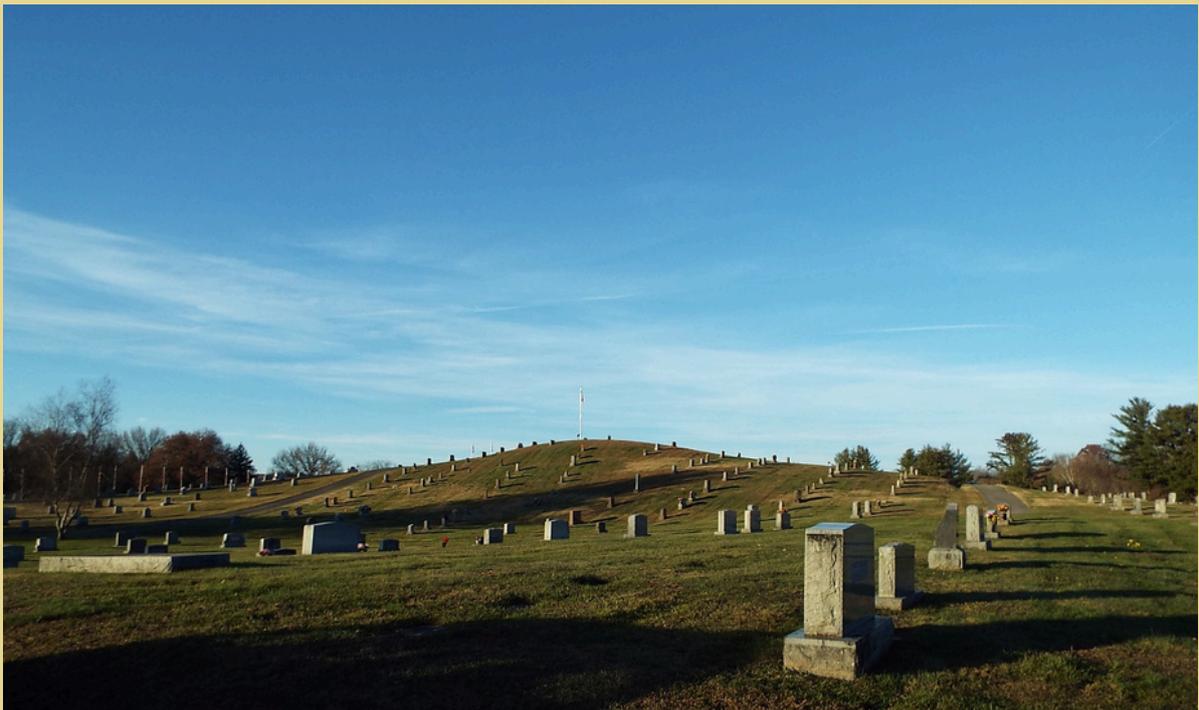
AmeriCorps Story

Sharing Upshur County History with "An Occasional Newsletter"

By Grace Bonnet

"The Upshur County Historical Society: An Occasional Newsletter was just published in mid-April. The annual journal is dedicated to providing educational articles on historical topics related to Upshur County. As the AFNHA member serving with the UCHS this year, I had the opportunity to contribute an article on Bush's Fort, the primary frontier fort in the region that would become Upshur County. Readers have requested an article on this topic for years, and so I was glad to help see that request fulfilled."

Read more of Grace's story [HERE!](#)



The fort stood from 1773-1782 somewhere within Heavner's Cemetery

Highlands Creative Economy

Our Highlands Creative Economy program continues with several upcoming meetings and events!

Highlands Creative Economy (HCE) is a partnership between Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area and Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College (Eastern). The HCE program hosts a monthly networking meeting for tourism-related organizations, training events, workshops, and the annual Tourism Summit. Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. This open forum gives county tourism leaders and local businesses a chance to discuss successes, issues, and solutions and to engage with guest speakers. Register for meetings [on our website](#).

Meetings and trainings:

May 23 | Featured speaker: James Alvey (National Park Service) - Grants for Historic Preservation and Accessibility | Zoom

June 4 | [Digital Marketing for Businesses](#) | Eastern WV C&TC | Moorefield

June 27 - Featured speaker: Marti Jefferson (WV Recreational Economies Initiative) - Resources for businesses | Zoom

August 5 | Annual Tourism Summit | WV Schools for the Deaf & Blind | Romney

The Highlands Creative Economy program has awarded mini-grants to support regional networking at the following community events:

May 15 | West Virginians for Public Lands In-Person Meeting

May 21 | [Webster County Community Engagement Event](#)

July 20 | Petersburg Community Art Walk

Sept 6-8 | [Allegheny Trail 50th Anniversary Celebration](#)



**APPALACHIAN
FOREST**
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



HIGHLANDS
CREATIVE ECONOMY



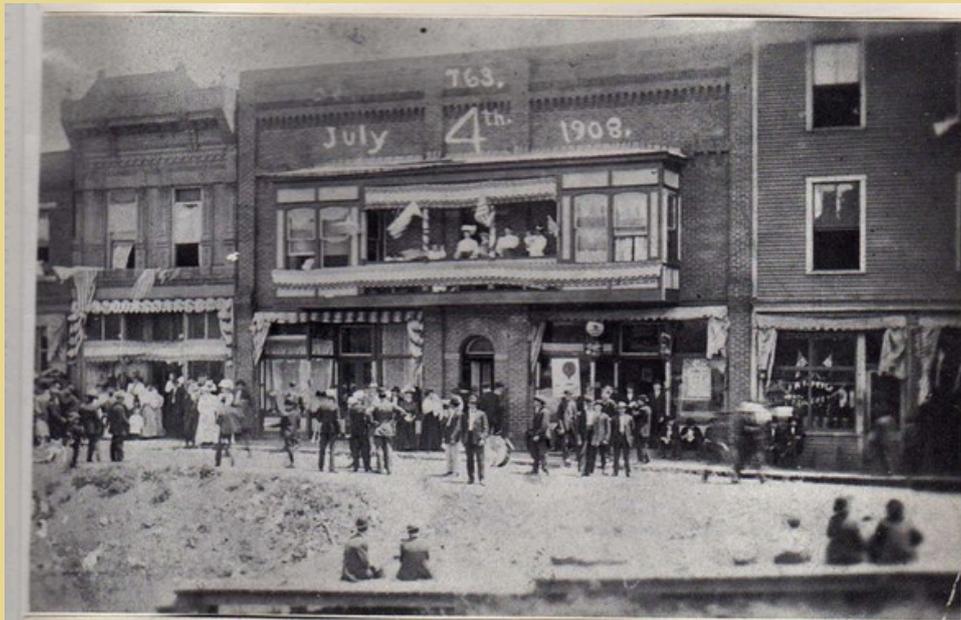
EASTERN
West Virginia Community & Technical College

America250 in the Appalachian Forest

Creating Culture in Thomas

Many towns in West Virginia experienced lightning-fast growth as they became part of a network of railroads. These towns usually had access to abundant resources like coal or timber that provided jobs for the town's residents. Many towns were built by companies—employees of coal companies would live in houses owned by the company they worked for. However, this was not always the case. One town that was built by residents instead of a coal company is Thomas, West Virginia.

Read more of our latest story [HERE!](#)



Schilansky Dress Shop, Schilansky Market, Imperial Hotel in Thomas in 1908 (Image courtesy of Joseph Dumire)

Call for Stories

Does your community have a unique story? Does your organization have an exhibit or project that tells the importance of a person or place in our region? Submit a story to our America250 project! Submit or read our guidelines at www.appalachianforestnha.org/america250-about.

Events

Appalachian Forest Grants Events

May 21 | [Randolph County Historical Society 100th Anniversary](#).

June 22-23 | [Fort Warwick 250th Anniversary](#).

Regional Events

May 17 | [Huntersville Educational Day](#).

May 18 | [Bringing in the May](#) | Berkeley Springs

May 24 | [River City Festival of the Arts](#) | Rowlesburg

May 24-26 | [ArtSpring Festival](#) | Tucker County

May 24-26 | [Mountains and Museums](#) | Garrett County

May 24-26 | [Memorial Day Bike Party](#) | Sweetwater Farm Trail Center

May 30-June 2 | [Blue & Gray Reunion](#) | Philippi

June 1 | [Strawberry Festival](#) | Keyser

June 1 | [Bluegrass Pickin on the Hill](#) | Brooks Hill

June 1 | [Group Bike Ride](#) | Elk River Trail

June 5 | [Square Dance Class](#) | Cowen Municipal Building

June 7 | [Music at the Pavilion](#) | Summersville

June 7-16 | [Mountain Maryland Museum Week](#) | Allegany County

June 14-15 | [Cacapon Riverfest](#) | Capon Bridge

June 14-15 | [Ronceverte River Festival](#)

June 15 | [WV Celtic Festival & Highland Games](#) | Camp Pioneer

Regional News

Wardensville businesses featured in [Garden & Gun](#)

Mid Atlantic Arts accepting applications for [Folk and Traditional Arts Community Projects Grants](#)



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