



APPALACHIAN FOREST HERITAGE AREA

AFHA AmeriCorps Making a Difference

We are pleased to announce that the AFHA AmeriCorps program has been awarded a nationally competitive grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, for 20 members for this next year. And thanks to the continued support from Volunteer West Virginia, an additional state formula grant will bring our overall team to a record 23 members. The new team starts training on September 12, and will be visible this fall serving and making a difference in at least 7 of our AFHA counties.

We would like to thank and congratulate the 2010-2011 AFHA AmeriCorps team on a job well done! AFHA board, stakeholders, and site supervisors joined to congratulate the completing members and honor all of our volunteers at our annual volunteer picnic this summer at Scott Hill in Elkins. This year's team has continued the legacy of benefiting each of the forest communities in which they've served. We're sad to see them go, but excited to welcome next year's team.

AmeriCorps projects conducted by the members this year included a wide variety of projects. Watershed survey, interpretive exhibits, growing milkweed to encourage monarch butterflies, releasing beetles to control invasive species, and building a hoophouse to grow native plants are just a few of the conservation projects. They helped with hands-on projects such as planting flower boxes in downtown Elkins, surveying trails, and pulling invasive garlic mustard. Heritage and HP team members helped organize and publicize events, created children's programming, developed archives and libraries, and helped restore community buildings.

With the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War starting this summer in our area, members helped commemorate these events. They created a weekly Civil War Journal, and helped at events for Rich Mountain Battlefield and Corrick's Ford 150th reenactments. AFHA AmeriCorps were out in force, ensuring that all who attended were greeted, assisted, fed, and entertained! AmeriCorps members also helped out at many other events such as the Arthurdale New Deal Festival and the Riverside Blues Fest in Elkins.

AFHA Volunteers

Campground Conservation Education! AFHA has been making the rounds with free water bottles and educational brochures. We've been visiting campers and promoting conservation through education. We've also been recruiting new volunteers for the MVP: Monongahela Volunteer Program!

You can get involved by attending our fall tree planting event! Together with Plum Creek Timber, AFHA will celebrate National Public Lands day by planting native red spruce in the Monongahela National Forest. Volunteers will



meet on September 24th at Mine Road near Slatyfork, WV at 9am, or may carpool from Elkins City Hall at 7am.

Another tree planting opportunity will be Saturday, September 17 at

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Help to restore the high altitude red spruce ecosystem in Canaan Valley. Volunteers should meet at the Refuge headquarters at 10 am.

AFHA will again be participating at the Mountain State Forest Festival with a booth in the Conservation Village in the Elkins City Park, October 6 - 8. Sign up to help with the booth, or just come by and visit us in the park.

If you would like to help with this or other future projects, work days or events, email us at volunteerism@appalachianforest.us

AFHA capacity as an organization, development of our MVP volunteerism program, and ability to assist with tree plantings and other conservation activities has been increased thanks to a Mid Capacity grant from the National Forest Foundation. To learn more about AFHA and our volunteer opportunities, visit our new website at www.appalachianforest.us — Thanks NFF!!



See AFHA on Facebook! 

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Appalachian Forest Heritage Area
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Woodland Resource Management Workshop

WV Woodland Owners Regional Field Workshop:

“Conducting Multiple Woodland Resource Management and Uses”

Saturday; September 17, 2011 from 10 AM to 2 PM

Location: Morgan County, WV near Largent, off of Route-9 on the WV woodlands of Nick Casto.

Sponsored by : WV Woodland Owners Assoc., WVU Extension, and the WVU Appalachian Hardwood Center.

This event, led by Nick Casto, will highlight and demonstrate some of the various techniques used to cultivate wildlife food plots and habitat areas, and desirable tree species such as oak, black cherry, hickory, yellow poplar, etc. in WV woodlands. Tree planting, road development, invasive plant control and much more will also be discussed. The tour will include uphill walking but will not be strenuous. Appropriate clothing and walking footwear are recommended.

Pre-Registration for this "Free" event is recommended and lunch will be provided. For more information and directions to the location contact: Dan Magill, Forester at the WVU Appalachian Hardwood Center by phone at: (304) 293-9419, or by e-mailing: dmagill@wvu.edu

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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