

# GROWTH RINGS



## Appalachian Forest Heritage Area Newsletter

PO Box 1206, Elkins WV 26241

304-636-6182

[www.appalachianforest.us](http://www.appalachianforest.us)

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### *Elections at Lewisburg*

Our Fall 2005 Stakeholders meeting was held in Lewisburg, October 28. Following a fascinating series of tours on Thursday, the Friday meeting at Carnegie Hall featured a great panel sharing Lewisburg heritage tourism success stories, a number of presentations about AFHA mini-grant projects, and a wrap-up on AFHA branding with Scott Gerloff.

During our Council meeting, bylaws changes were approved redefining the roles of the Council and Board to make the Board legally responsible for the organization. During Council elections, the following representatives were approved:

Forestry group - Don Grant to fill vacant seat, and Rob Jones renewed;

History group - Ruth Brinker renewed;

Natural group - Ruth Blackwell Rogers will share seat with Matt Keller;

WV DNR - Stephanie Bailey to share seat with Bob Beanblossom;

Barbour County - Lynne Snyder share w Lars Byrne;

Garrett County - Cherie Ross;

Grant County - Debbie Kunkle & Jack Sturgill renewed;

Nicholas County - Bob Johnson;

Pocahontas County - Mel Hobbs will share seat with Gail Price;

Preston County - Michele Moure renewed;

Webster County - Geary Weir and Stan Anderson.

Board members elected included officers: Deb Clatterbuck - President, Eleanor Palko - Vice President, Kim Shirer - Secretary, Cinda Francis - Treasurer, Ben Randolph fifth executive committee member. Additional Board members elected were Mark Beals, Barb Breshock, Ruth Brinker, Abby Chapple, Kim Cooper, Christine Glaab, Rob Jones, and Steve Selin.

**UPDATE: Brochures are done!** Get them at the Berkeley Springs meeting.

### *AFHA Opens New Office*

AFHA now has a community-based office in partnership with Mountain Partners in Community Development. We are located in Elkins City Hall, Davis Avenue at Fourth Street, on the second floor in Room 218. The address is AFHA, P.O. Box 1206, Elkins, WV 26241. The phone number is 636-6182, the same as MPCD, ask for Phyllis or Coral.

### *New VISTA Worker for AFHA*

Coral Totten, our new AFHA VISTA worker, began work February 5th. A doctoral student in Technology Education at WVU, Coral will be assisting with a wide range of capacity building tasks for the organization including data management for fundraising, community outreach, public relations, developing walking and driving tours in the Heritage Area, publishing the newsletter and other tasks supporting the AFHA mission.

### *National Heritage Area Designation Update*

AFHA is making real progress now in our National Heritage Area designation efforts. We are working with Sen. Rockefeller's office towards getting our designation bill introduced in the Senate, and the National Park Service has begun reviewing our Feasibility Study. Come to the Stakeholders meeting to hear the current progress.

Thanks to efforts of Rob Jones and drafting help from Eleanor Palko, we have received a number of new support letters from state representatives of AFHA counties. These will supplement the support letters previously received.

If you have contact with an organization who has not sent a support letter, more are always needed to be added to our list. These general letters can be addressed to AFHA. We also at times need additional, targeted letters. Contact staff or watch for web site updates on letters we currently need.

## *Upcoming Events Sampler*

If there are upcoming events, festivals or important meetings in your area, this is your opportunity for free advertising to a willing audience - everyone on the AFHA mailing list. Prior to publication of each newsletter, contact Coral with information about your event: what, when, where, admittance fee, web site and a small description of what visitors to the event can expect to see, hear or do while there. We can also list events on the AFHA web site, if you send us the information!

### **Pendleton Co Unveils Audio Tour, April 9**

Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce has created a series of four audio CDs that tell the stories of the County with voices of County residents. *Heritage Travels* will be introduced to the public April 9, 2006 at the Pendleton High/Middle School Auditorium at 2:30 PM. Power point presentations will present clips from the CDs, and many of the people whose voices are on the CDs will be present to answer questions or add to their tales. To purchase Heritage Travel CD's or for more information contact the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce by phone at 304-358-3884 or by email [pnedletoncoc@beaconnet.net](mailto:pnedletoncoc@beaconnet.net)

### **Forest Stewards Tour - April 28.**

A tour has been scheduled for Greenbrier State Forest small woodlot demonstration area for Forest Stewards - landowners who have participated in or have an interest in the Forest Stewardship program. It will take place on April 28th from 2PM to 5 PM - we will meet at picnic shelter number 1. Contact Barbara Breshock for information and reservations. 304-256-6775, [breshock@hotmail.com](mailto:breshock@hotmail.com)

**68th Annual Ramp Feed, a.k.a "Feast of the Rampson." April 22** Pre registration deadline is April 14th. Contact 'Vikki' at Richwood Area Chamber of Commerce, (304) 846-6790 or e-mail the chamber at [rwdchamber@richwoodwv.com](mailto:rwdchamber@richwoodwv.com)

### **Webster County Nature Tour, May 5-7**

Walking & driving tours of scenic areas, photo opportunities, nightly entertainment. Rustic lodging at Camp Caesar & meals included. Sponsored by Webster Springs Garden Club. For information call 304 847-5286 or Camp Caesar at 304 226-3888.

**Preservation Conference - May 4-6**, Preservation Alliance of WV & WV Main Street, [www.pawv.org](http://www.pawv.org)

### **Randolph Co plans Wildflower in the Woods**

A Wildflowers in the Woods walk is being planned for this spring, including a guided tour by wildflower experts, and a shared picnic featuring heritage recipes. A suggested donation from participants will help raise funds for future activities. For confirmation of dates and details, watch the AFHA web site under "Visit" then "Randolph".

**Past - 80 Party, June 10** Held the 2nd Saturday in June, festivities take place at Richwood National Guard Armory. Anyone Over age 80 is welcome. Event includes Gospel Music, Special Gifts, Free Portraits, plus "Christmas in June," w/ Traditional Christmas Dinner served by Local Politicians. The event was created to honor those who attain 80 years of age, and was the brainchild of the late Jim Comstock, publisher for many years of *The West Virginia Hillbilly* and the *Richwood News Leader*.

### ***Randolph County AFHA Meeting Highlights***

The Randolph County AFHA Quarterly Meeting was held on March 1, 2006. Discussion on long- and short-term goals for AFHA in Randolph County included developing a thematic walking tour, working on a forest heritage driving tour of nearby sites, and continuing work on the AFHA Museum to be housed in the Darden Mill. Members present began preparations for the Wildflower Walk and Picnic to be held in late April or May near Elkins that will serve as both a fundraiser and to raise awareness for AFHA.

### ***Local Authors Produce Documentary***

Robert C. Whetsell, a public historian and author, and Gerry Milnes, Folklife Director at Augusta Heritage Center, co-produced a documentary "The CC Boys" that was screened February 17th at the Monongahela Forest Headquarters in Elkins. Dealing primarily with the role of the CCC in regard to their work in the forests and building and road construction at the fledgling state parks, the film was received well by those in attendance for the screening. The film combined historical photos of local camps and CCC workers, with commentary by past members and historians. A second DVD will include additional footage and features that were not included in the film. The project was funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council, with matching funding from an AFHA mini-grant.

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# Appalachian Forest Heritage Area Stakeholders Meeting

## April 7, 2006 – Berkeley Springs, West Virginia

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### Meetings will be held at The Inn & Spa, downtown Berkeley Springs

Please RSVP if you plan to attend - we need accurate numbers for meals and tours.

Watch [www.appalachianforest.us](http://www.appalachianforest.us) for updates to agenda.

| <u>Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup></u> |  | <u>Friday April 7<sup>th</sup></u> |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm                    | Forest Tour. Green Ridge State Forest – Meet at Green Ridge Headquarters, Allegany Co. | 9:30 am – 10:00 am                 | Welcome and updates                                |
| 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm                    | Walking Tour of Berkeley Springs   | 10:00 am – 10:45 am                | Interest Group Meetings                            |
| 6:30 pm                              | AFHA Board Meeting & Dinner  | 11:00 am – 12:00 am                | The Forest Speaks presentation                     |
| After meeting                        | Informal gathering – music?  | 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm                | Lunch (provided)                                   |
|                                      |  | 12:45 pm – 3:00 pm                 | Speakers & Discussion on National Heritage Efforts |
|                                      |  | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm                  | AFHA Council Meeting                               |



**Lodging:** Rooms are available at The Inn and Spa at Berkeley Springs, Morgan County WV. Accommodation rates and information are available at [www.theinnandspa.com](http://www.theinnandspa.com) or calling (800)-822-6630. A block of rooms in the newer West Wing (think about it) are reserved until March 23 for \$99 for Thursday night for those interested on a first come first served basis, some rooms in the older Inn may be less expensive. For other lodging [www.berkeleysprings.com/lodging.htm](http://www.berkeleysprings.com/lodging.htm) or try the new Best Western at 304/258-9400.

**Please RSVP** that you plan to attend so we will have head counts for meals, tours, and meeting attendance. Email <phyllisb@meer.net> or call 304-636-6182 and ask for Coral. Check with us also if you are looking for a roommate. Watch our website [www.appalachianforest.us](http://www.appalachianforest.us) or future emails for updates and more info on the agenda or activities.

### **Tours Thursday**

Thursday afternoon come to western Maryland for a forest tour of Green Ridge State Forest, led by Mark Beals and Rob Jones. Meet at the Green Ridge Headquarters, tour will start about 1:30. Then we will move on to Berkeley Springs, for a walking tour of the town at 5:00.

### **Special Presentation -- The Forest Speaks: One Place, Many Voices**

Join folklorists Michael and Carrie Kline for a foray into story gathering and community building. Hear examples of recent heritage tourism audio productions. Learn about listening in our communities and tune into voices not usually heard in discussions of public policy or local values. Find ways to give voice to the intersections between folkloric and environmental issues, tapping into local wisdom and memory issues of livelihood and stewardship.

During this session the Klines, an Elkins-based folklife documentation and audio production team, will tell of their work gathering community history and ecological knowledge in developing heritage-based tourism. In West Virginia, along with Schuylkill County, PA, Southern Maryland's Chesapeake Tidewater, Cherokee, North Carolina, Kentucky and Western Massachusetts, they have worked with heritage areas and local initiatives to chronicle, celebrate and elevate local cultural resources. Within AFHA they have worked on projects in Pocahontas and Randolph Counties (Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike series), Hampshire County, and Pendleton County. They have recently developed a handbook for pursuing heritage tourism from the grassroots up.

Spring Festivals in the AFHA include:

**Pickens Maple Sugar Festival**, March 18, 19, [www.smilingcountry.com/pickenswv/maplefest.htm](http://www.smilingcountry.com/pickenswv/maplefest.htm)

**Webster Wildwater Weekend**, Apr 1-2, [www.websterwv.com/whitewater.html](http://www.websterwv.com/whitewater.html)

**Ramp Festival**, Elkins, April 28, 29 [www.randolphcowv.com](http://www.randolphcowv.com)

**11th Annual WV Timber & Wood Products Show**, May 13th & 14th. The Show is held at Holly Gray Park, near Flatwoods, in Braxton County, and features numerous forestry-related exhibits, wood chopping contest, logger contests (chainsaw, truck, loader, skidder), horse logging demonstrations, bow shoot contest, turkey call contest, gun show, and handmade crafts. Cost is \$5 (12 & up), \$3 (6-11 yrs.), Free (5 yrs. and under). Gates are open 9am-5pm on Saturday and 8am-4pm on Sunday. For more information contact the WVForestry Association. Office toll-free 1-888-372-WOOD(9663).

**The Battle of Lewisburg Living History & Reenactment**, May 19 - 21. [www.battleoflewisburg.org](http://www.battleoflewisburg.org).

**Webster County Woodchopping Festival**, May 26-28, [www.woodchoppingfestival.com](http://www.woodchoppingfestival.com)

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