

# GROWTH RINGS



## Appalachian Forest Heritage Area Newsletter

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### *AFHA Honors the Society of American Foresters 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

AFHA will show their support for the Society of American Foresters and their contribution to forestry heritage by the presentation of a cake to celebrate 100 years of their organization at the gathering at Swallow Falls State Park in Oakland, Maryland on October 29. Deb Clatterbuck, AFHA Board President, will present the cake, emblazoned with the AFHA logo, to the organization as part of their week long National Conference held this year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania October 23 - 29.

### *NESARE Invites Proposal*

A grant preproposal from AFHA to Northeast Sustainable Agriculture and Extension has been selected to present as a full grant proposal. The project submitted "Forests, Foods, and Fiber: Developing Sustainable Agritourism in the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area" focuses on development of locally produced value-added products and encouraging their availability for tourist purchase. For the proposal, we will want to include a sampler of likely participants in the project if it is funded. If you, or someone you know, is a woodlot, specialty food or fiber producer, is a craftsman or producer who uses locally produced raw materials, or has a retail shop or agritourism business for tourists, please let us know you may be interested.

### *Executive Summary Printed*

After too long a delay, the Executive Summary of the AFHA Feasibility Study has gone to print. With a redesigned cover intended to echo the "branding" look of the AFHA brochure, the Executive Summary will give us a professional presentation piece of what AFHA is about. See the Executive Summary on our web page, or pick up a copy at the Stakeholders meeting.

### *USDA Grant Complete*

As of September 14, the extended time period of the original USDA grant that launched the AFHA is complete. With a hectic flurry of trying to make sense of the figures, we did expend all of our remaining funds, including completion of mini-grants, printing of the Executive Summary, office supplies, and promotion expenses include web site services. We will be working this fall on the final report. Anyone who has mini-grant products or reports incomplete, please send them in this month.

Many thanks to WVU Division of Forestry and Extension Services, and especially to Dave McGill and Steve Selin, for their sponsorship and hard work in bringing AFHA into being. We look forward to continuing the partnership!

### *New Board Member Nominees*

At the upcoming Stakeholders meeting on October 27, we will again hold our annual election of Council and Board members. While specific seats will be up for renewal, we are always looking for new volunteers who are interested in becoming more involved with AFHA. Council members represent specific counties or interest groups, and seats can be shared so that two or more people together hold the seat. Expectations of council members are to attend the two Stakeholders meetings each year (Council meetings are held at the same time) and to help with outreach and visibility of AFHA to your county or interest group. Board members are chosen from the Council. While we seek to maintain a balanced geographical and interest area representation on the Board, the primary requirement is commitment to the organization. Board members attend four meetings a year (two are at the Stakeholders meeting) and may have additional committee work in addition.

If you would like to get more involved with AFHA and would consider a Council or Board position, please contact Phyllis to discuss how you can help.

## *October Stakeholders Meeting Tours and Highlights*

The fall 2006 AFHA Stakeholders meeting will kick off with a special opening of the Upshur County Historical Society exhibit, 11 am Thursday morning, October 26. This year's exhibit is "Coal Mining, Timbering, Glass Making & More: Early Industries of Upshur County." Meet at the Upshur County History Museum on west Main Street. Walking tour brochures of downtown Buckhannon will be available here.

The next stop will be a special tour of the Trus Joist Macmillan Plant at the Industrial Park in Buckhannon at 2 pm. We can carpool from downtown, or meet at the plant on the north side of Buckhannon. Operating in Buckhannon since 1995, the Weyerhaeuser Business manufactures engineered lumber products, specifically Microllam Laminated veneer Lumber and Parallam Parallel Strand Lumber mad from the abundant yellow poplar growing in the Upshur County area. This is a great tour, and a great example of what industry tours could be developed. Thanks to Cinda Francis for arranging this tour.

Lunch and dinner on Thursday are on your own. You can also go see the West Virginia Wildlife Center in French Creek (12 miles south of Buckhannon) where local and regional wildlife are interpreted in appropriate habitats. Other attractions in the Buckhannon area include: The Pringle Tree, the Wildlife Habitat adjacent to the Riverside Bed & Breakfast, West Virginia Wesleyan Campus, Stonecoal Lake Wildlife Management Area and Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park, the Buckongahelas and son Mahonegon sculpture in Jawbone

Park, Fidler's Mill, and the Farmer's Market that opens Friday 7 AM next to Jawbone Park.

Thursday evening, we are inviting local wood industry representatives to join us for a desert reception at 7 pm at the Upshur County Business Center. With a short presentation and informal discussion, we will share with them what AFHA is about and what we are trying to do. The reception will be capped by a showing of the new documentary "The CC Boys," presented by public historian and author Robert C. Whetsell. Rob, along with Gerry Milnes, Folklife Director at Augusta Heritage Center, co-produced the documentary that presents the history of the New Deal program that helped families in West Virginia survive during the depression years. Combining still shots of local camps and CCC workers, with commentary by past members and historians, it is an invaluable part of our local forest heritage. This film was funded by the WV Humanities Council, with matching funds from AFHA minigrant.

Friday morning, we will convene at the Upshur County Business Center starting at 9:30 am. The morning presentations will include updates on AFHA activities, along with several presentations on developing assets in the region. A panel discussion of developing heritage tourism in Buckhannon, and a presentation by Jennifer Giovannitti on the Hardwood Alliance Zone, will be included.

Following lunch provided by Annie's Market (donation requested - no more grant funds!) we will hold our AFHA meetings - interest groups, AFHA Council, and Board meeting.

# Appalachian Forest Heritage Area

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## Stakeholders Meeting October 26 - 27, 2006 Buckhannon, West Virginia

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Please RSVP if you plan to attend – see below.

### Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup>

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Upshur County History Museum Tour
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch on your own
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Trus Joist Tour
5:00 PM	Dinner on your own
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Dessert Reception, Upshur County Business Center Rob Whetsell CC Boys Presentation

### Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>–Upshur County Business Center

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Introductions and Updates
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Asset Development Projects
12:00 AM – 12:45 PM	Luncheon (donations requested)
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Interest Group Meetings
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Council Meeting
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Board Meeting



**Lodging:** The Governor's Inn Bed & Breakfast (304-472-2516) has four rooms available at the special rate of \$49 - mention AFHA when you reserve. Other lodging available includes: The Baxa Inn (304-472-2500), The Main Street Inn (304-472-5000), The Hampton Inn (304-473-0900), The Sir Charles Inn (304-472-1445) and The Riverside Bed & Breakfast (304-472-0796). Please make your own lodging reservations.

**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. You are still welcome even without RSVP, but you'll take your chances. Council and Board members please confirm your attendance or send proxy for our quorum count.

Send RSVP by email to [afha@appalachianforest.us](mailto:afha@appalachianforest.us) or call 636-6182.

### **Directions:**

Upshur County History Center Museum: the History Center Museum is in the former Southern Methodist Church building, 81 West Main Street, on the north side of Main St, ½ block west of the Courthouse in Buckhannon.

Trus Joist Macmillan plant:

Upshur County Business Center:



skills and the wood industry to educate the public about how forestry influenced the culture and economy of the local area. From its beginnings in 19?? It has seen continual yearly growth to its present level that anticipates crowds in excess of \_\_,000 for the week long activities. It now includes crafts, competitions, art shows, performances and assorted entertainment and refreshments for all ages and desires.

*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.

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

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