



APPALACHIAN FOREST HERITAGE AREA

AFHA in the Forest Festival

The Mountain State Forest Festival is held in the heart of the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area. The Mountain State Forest Festival was created in 1930 to celebrate the beauty of the Appalachian Forest, its abundance of natural resources, and the richness of Appalachian culture. Over the years the festival has grown in both size and acclaim.

This year, Appalachian Forest Heritage Area is pleased to participate in a group effort to emphasize forest conservation. Initiated by the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, a large number of forest and conservation related organizations are grouped together in the City Park to celebrate the Forest in the Forest Festival.

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA) works on natural, historic, cultural and forestry projects to increase understanding and encourage heritage tourism related to forest heritage across an 18 county area through the highlands of West Virginia and western Maryland. Our diverse stakeholders work together on local and regional projects to enhance our assets and build community economic development. Our AmeriCorps team works on specific projects related to conservation, historic preservation, and heritage development to get things done.

AFHA is offering two Forest Festival tours for 2008:

- Penn Virginia Forest Demonstration Area, Oct 1, 1 pm
- Tour of Hamer Pellet Plant, Thursday, Oct 2, 10 am

If you missed these tours, watch the AFHA web site www.appalachianforest.us for future tours related to the forest, forest management and forest products.

AFHA will also have a short media presentation showing at the Forestry Exhibits at the VFW hall. Be sure to stop by to see our program and the many exhibits here from the forest industry.

Who is a Stakeholder?

A stakeholder is anyone who is interested, who cares, or who wants to be involved. Some people participate as individuals, as a business, or as part of an organization. They include foresters, environmental activists, tourism promoters, community leaders, historians, artists, and everyday folks. AFHA seeks to build a common cause where these diverse groups can work together on projects that we all agree will improve our community and quality of life.

Stakeholders can participate in a number of ways –

Get on our mailing list to receive newsletters and event announcements

Attend Stakeholders meetings and AFHA activities. The next Stakeholders meeting will be October 30 & 31 in Romney. Watch the web site for details. Volunteer!

Help Get Things Done!

Many worthwhile community activities rely largely on volunteers to get the work done. AFHA and our AmeriCorps team are helping to organize volunteer opportunities that might include:

Conservation – building trails, restoring streams, repairing site damage, controlling invasive species, monitoring wilderness areas, conservation education.

Historic Preservation – rehabilitating historic buildings ranging from cleanup and site preparation to skilled preservation work. Volunteers can receive training in specific preservation trades skills that you can use on community projects, or on your own home.

Heritage Development – giving tours, educational programs, costumed living history, staffing booths, planning events, researching history, demonstrating crafts, marketing, visitor information. And much more!

Yes! *I want to be an AFHA Stakeholder or Volunteer* – Sign a signup sheet or return this information to the address below:

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

___ Put me on the mailing list for occasional newsletters ___ Put me on the announcement email list

Put me on the volunteers list for ___ conservation ___ historic preservation ___ heritage development

___ Contact me to help more with AFHA, I'm interested in _____