

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area



2019 : Success!

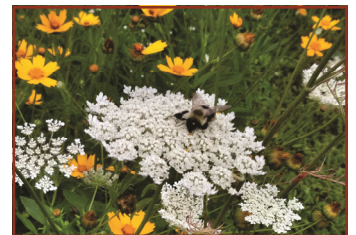
National Designation - On March 12, 2019, our long-sought *National Heritage Area* designation became official! This designation recognizes the national significance of our area and the partnership efforts of our organization, while bringing the AFNHA access to National Park Service assistance and resources.

Management Planning - Over the next couple of years, AFNHA will be planning for the future with public meetings, task groups, and input determining goals and priorities. Sign up on our website to help us make these plans.

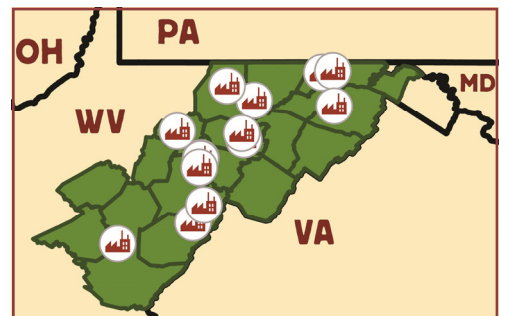
Discovery Center - *Creating Culture: Ethnic Groups in the AFNHA* (left) was our featured exhibit for the 2019 season. Special programs in conjunction with the exhibit included film showings about Appalachian Culture, and children's activities featuring ethnic holiday customs.

Pollinator Initiative - AFNHA is joining other NHAs in a *Pollinator Initiative* (right) to raise awareness and promote pollinator conservation projects.

Tour Maps - AFNHA continues networking with tourism sites across our region to create thematic map-based tours. *Industry and Transportation Tour* (right) is launching this winter.



Voices of the Forest Podcast - Our new podcast series explores the area's culture, history, people, and environment. It has been listened to in 15 countries and on 5 continents.



Supporting rural community development through heritage tourism and forest conservation

APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

celebrates the central Appalachian forest: its history, culture, natural history, forest management and products. This grassroots partnership works in West Virginia and western Maryland to explore the relationship between the Appalachian highlands forest and the people who live there.



APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



Enhancing Assets to Benefit West Virginia Communities

AFNHA AmeriCorps enabled 40 AmeriCorps members through winter to summer 2019, and 38 members for fall 2019, to serve local, rural communities while gaining experience and education award for their professional development. Overall, they served 64,097 hours in 2019.

- **Conservation Members** (*right, top*) improved 904 acres of land through tree plantings, removing invasive species, and restoring watersheds, plus monitoring of environmental activities and conditions to foster environmental stewardship. They engaged 6632 youth, teaching citizen science and stream exploration, and reached an additional 6738 members of the public by environmental education and outreach.
- **Community Development Members** (*right*) accomplished community projects in local communities and enhanced cultural heritage tourism exhibits, programs, and events for museums, historic sites, and arts organizations. Member activities reached 1688 young people and provided services to 36,440 members of the public.
- **Historic Preservation Hands On Team** (*below, left*) helped rehabilitate 6 historic buildings and 2 landscapes, including repairing historic windows on Durbin Town Hall and restoring Red Oak Fire Tower.
- **Volunteer Management** was a focus for all AFNHA AmeriCorps members, as they helped build capacity for grassroots community organizations. Members leveraged 827 volunteers for 21,978 volunteer hours.

