

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oral History Workshop at the Darden Mill  
Wednesday February 24, 2016  
1-3PM  
Free and Open to the Public, RSVP required

Learn how to listen to, save, and share important community stories at an oral history workshop sponsored by Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA). Emily Hilliard, state folklorist at the West Virginia Humanities Council, will lead the training February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Darden Mill in Elkins.

Speaking to the importance of community documentary work, Hilliard said, “Oral history interview skills empower us to record and engage the histories and stories of people in our local communities, and preserve those important narratives for future generations.” Hilliard holds an M.A. in folklore from the University of North Carolina and has conducted oral histories and produced audio documentaries for Maryland Traditions, the National Council for the Traditional Arts, the LongHouse Food Revival, and the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke.

Participants can expect to learn interviewing and deep listening techniques, as well as instruction on recording equipment use, and will also conduct practice interviews. Phyllis Baxter, Executive Director of AFHA, said many local initiatives use oral history as an important tool in understanding and conserving their heritage. “We are excited to be hosting an event for interested community members and AmeriCorps members to learn best practice in conducting oral history interviews,” Baxter said.

The workshop will be held Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the historic Darden Mill on the corner of Railroad Avenue and First Street in downtown Elkins. Parking is limited at the Mill, but can be found on-street in downtown Elkins.

The workshop is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is required. In case of severe weather, pre-registered participants will be notified of postponement to the backup date of Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. AFHA asks that participants RSVP by Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> to allow for preparation. Please call (304) 637-6182 or email [info@appalachianforest.us](mailto:info@appalachianforest.us) for more information or to RSVP.