



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 13 No.2

May 2023

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

Our mission is to preserve and protect the Catoctin Mountain forest for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations

Free Family Fest at Gambrill State Park – Tea Room

May 10, 2023 5:00 pm – sunset



Event to encourage families to see the resources they have in Gambrill State Park.

Catoctin Forest Alliance will have activities for youth including a hike (6-6:30),

Build a Tree (7-7:30), and ‘make a gift for mom’ for Mother’s Day.

Artwork, from the Artist in Residence program, will be displayed (and available for sale). Plus meet this year’s Artist in residence.

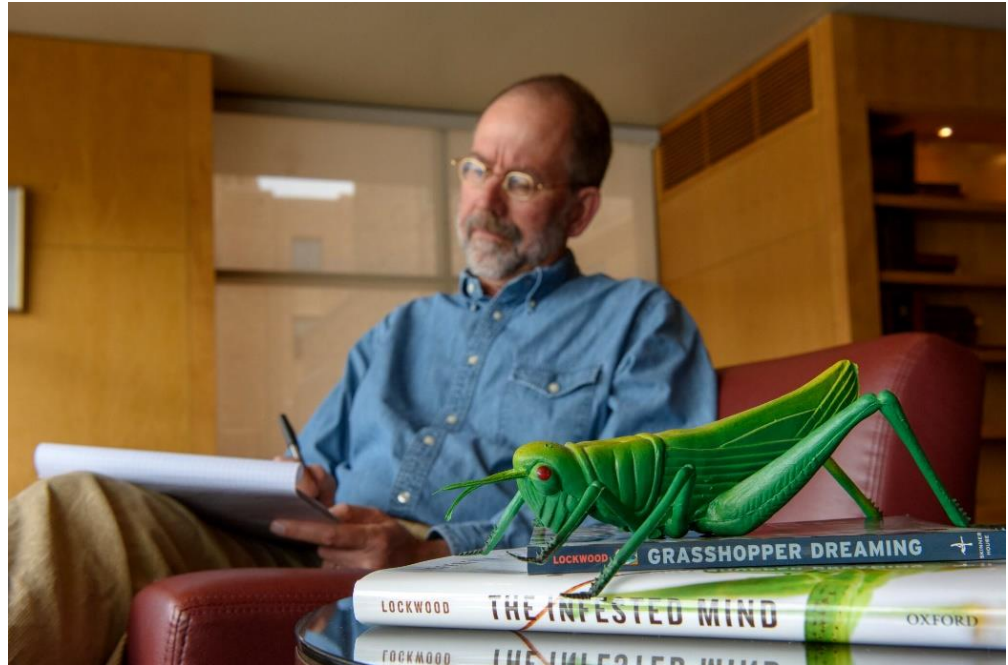
A piece of artwork will be raffled off to raise funds for youth programs. Any donation to the CFA Youth Group programs will be greatly appreciated.

Come, have fun, relax, and enjoy music (provided by Sarno & Hess) along with the beautiful sunset.

Artist in Residence Coming to Catoctin Mountain Park

Mr. Jeffrey Lockwood from Laramie, Wyoming will be the Catoctin Forest Alliance Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park May 8-27, 2023.

Some 40 years ago, Mr. Lockwood earned a BS in biology and a PhD in entomology. The choice of the latter field was motivated by a fascination with the life forms which were disturbingly and enchantingly ‘other’. He



was hired as an insect ecologist at the University of Wyoming in 1986, and for 15 years he immersed himself in the lives of insects. His work focused on grasshoppers and locusts, taking him to the steppes of Asia and the Tibetan plateau, the savannah of Africa, the outback of Australia—and back to the grasslands of North America. With time, however, he found himself no longer fulfilled by applied research which had become a euphemism for the wholesale killing of grasshoppers, creatures that had grown close to his heart and mind. This led to his first book of essays, “Grasshopper Dreaming: Reflections on Killing and Loving” (Skinner House 2002). Over the next 5 years, he transitioned (or perhaps metamorphosed) from the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources into the College of Arts & Sciences, where he settled into a split appointment between the Department of Visual & Literary Arts (focusing on creative nonfiction in the realm of nature and environmental writing) and the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies (focusing on environmental ethics and aesthetics)

In addition to being at the Family Fest at Gambrill Park on May 10th, Mr. Lockwood will be presenting two free public writing workshops

Children’s writing workshop **Spring Rains and Cinquains** Saturday May 13 at 1-2pm at the Thurmont Regional Library, [76 E Moser Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788](https://www.thurmontmd.gov/76-E-Moser-Rd-Thurmont-MD-21788) .

Adult writing workshop **Minute Memoirs** Wednesday May 17 7-8pm at the Thurmont Regional Library, [76 E Moser Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788](https://www.thurmontmd.gov/76-E-Moser-Rd-Thurmont-MD-21788) .

Spring Rains and Cinquains (Children’s workshop)

Kids love poetry (even if grownups tend to take the fun out of creative writing by imposing silly rules about rhyming and whatnot). And kids love the outdoors (even if grownups tend to take the fun out of

poking around in ant hills and dung piles). So what could be better than combining these two, fundamentally fun ventures?

You've probably heard about short forms of poetry, such as haiku and limerick, but in this workshop we're going to play with an unusual form called the cinquain. So join Jeff Lockwood, the Catoctin Mountain Park artist-in-residence, who's conducted poetry-writing workshops with kids from 6 to 12 (and older—or for that matter, anyone who still has a child inside of them!). The “rules” for a cinquain are few and invite writers to explore the natural world using short, evocative lines that capture their sense of joy and wonder. In fact, see if you can figure out what makes this poem a cinquain (hint: count the syllables):

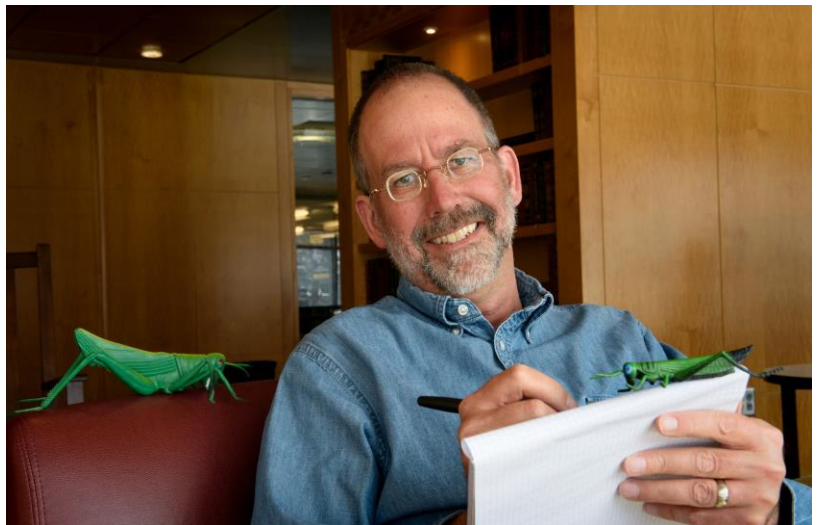
“November Night” by Adelaide Crapsey
 Listen...
 With faint dry sound,
 Like steps of passing ghosts,
 The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees
 And fall.

Minute Memoirs (Adult workshop)

Writing the story of your life is a common goal for many people, but one that is rarely achieved. This workshop will absolutely assure your success in this regard. Of course, a 200-page memoir is a bit daunting, so we'll start smaller. Much smaller. Like 10 words. Really.

Join Jeff Lockwood, the Catoctin Mountain Park artist-in-residence, for a creative and playful 1-hour workshop in which you'll compose no fewer than three memoirs (keeping in mind a memoir is not an autobiography but reveals a particular aspect of one's life). All that you need to bring is a sense of puckish possibility and some moving memories. And if you're dubious of such a venture, then consider some of these evocative 6-word memoirs:

Extremely responsible, secretly longed for spontaneity.
 I still make coffee for two.
 Veni, vidi, but haven't vici yet.
 Must remember: people, gadgets. That order.



Artist in Residence, Jeffrey Lockwood

History of the Artist in Residence Program

Art has been part of the history of national parks since the 1860's when Hudson River School painters captured the majestic Western landscapes that became our first iconic national parks. Their awe-inspiring works spurred Americans to preserve those lands for future generations. Artist George Catlin, during an 1832 trip to the Dakotas, was perhaps the first to suggest the idea of a national park. Catlin traveled extensively and noted that Indian civilization, wildlife and the wilderness were in danger unless they could be preserved "by some great protecting policy of government...in a magnificent park....a Nation's Park, containing man and beast, in all the wild[ness] and freshness of their nature's beauty!"

Today, there are Artist in Residence (AIR) programs in more than 50 National Park Service units which preserve the connection between arts and the parks. Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA) manages the local Artist in Residence program jointly with Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park. Selections for the program are made by a panel that includes art experts from local colleges. In addition to accepting a variety of visual media, the program in 2013 began accepting written media as well.

CFA was established in 2009 as a partner organization to Catoctin Mountain Park NPS and Cunningham Falls State Park MPS. One of the CFA founders was artist Elizabeth Prongas, who began the local AIR program here in 2010 to bring a new and diverse voice and constituency to the parks. Since the inception of the AIR program CFA has welcomed 31 artists to the Catoctin Mountains. They have come from California, Washington, DC, Kentucky, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Wyoming and Virginia. The artists include painters, photographers, poets, a writer, a videographer, cast metal artist, a wool felter, a journaling artist and this year, a fabric artist/quilter. The artists stay in an historic cabin in Catoctin Mountain Park for one to three weeks and produce art influenced by the mountain setting. After the residency, each artist donates one piece of the art they created during their stay to the CFA AIR collection.

The AIR art collection has been on exhibit at the Delaplaine Arts Center in Frederick, the Thurmont Library, the Emmitsburg Library and the Visitor Center in the Manor Area of Cunningham Falls State Park. The collection is permanently housed in Catoctin Mountain Park.

The Artist in Residence program not only strengthens the bond between nature, art and the outdoors but the sale of the art produces funds to bring children to the parks for outdoor learning experiences.

For more information on CFA and the AIR program, please visit www.catoctinforestalliance.org.

A Note from CFA President, Jim Robbins



The Amish completed many tasks at Catoctin Mountain Park, Cunningham Falls and Grambrill State Parks along with projects at ThorpeWood. They again stayed at the beautiful ThorpeWood log home. They traveled many trails, worked with Erin Aylor at the blacksmith shop in Boonsboro, visited Gettysburg Battlefield, Antietam Battlefield and Washington, D.C. All in all, a very busy time both working and “playing” during their visit. I will be off to visit another group of Amish that are working at Cumberland Gap Historical Park at the

historical Hensley Settlement.

The SUCCESS youth have completed 24 picnic tables, 20 signs for the plants at the visitor center in the Manor Area, refreshed 6 tables for the concession stand at the Lake and completed 15 benches for the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society (in time for the Iron Festival (May 20-21, 2023)). We have some projects for Catoctin Mountain Park and one for the trail at the Thurmont Library.

Make sure that you see the article about May 10, 2023 at High Knob (Tea Room). This will be a wonderful time for youth and parents to have fun, learn some of the history of that area, relax and watch the sunset from the porch (bring a chair).

As always, we can use your support in time and/or dollars to help these and other programs continue in our Parks. Please think of us when making donations. We are a 501I 3 nonprofit. If you have any questions about C.F.A., our programs or questions in general please visit our web site www.catoctinforestalliance.org or you can reach me Jim Robbins at jimrobbins@comcast.net or 301-693-9703.

Special (fund raising and awareness raising) Events

Submitted by Shelley Miller

I hope your 2023 spring season is getting off to a wonderful start. If you have already renewed your CFA membership, thank you! If you have not, please consider going to the website, www.catocinfoforestalliance.org, to do so. Please share CFA membership information with anyone interested in preserving the Catoc Mountain forest for present and future generations. Many exciting things continue to happen in CFA and we hope you will consider being a part of them!

A (belated yet heat-felt) Thank You

...to Caroline McDonald, Ella McDonald, Terry Cramer, Tammy Foland, Sharon Kellar, Linda Sundergill, Jim Sundergill, Debbie Mills, Dennis Miller and Jim Robbins for volunteering at the Boscov's Christmas Giftwrapping table. We look forward to participating in this again this year and hope others will think about joining us as well!



Shelley with the CFA sign/set up



Caroline, Ella, and Jim wrapping away



Caroline, Dennis, Ella, Jim, Jennifer exhibiting teamwork at the wrapping station.



Caroline, Ella, Tammy, and Sharon busy wrapping

**Upcoming Events:
Save the date and join us for...**

**The CFA Family Fest
At the Gambrill State Park Tea Room**

When: Wednesday May 10 2023

5 pm-sunset (about 8:15)

Where: Gambrill State Park Tea Room
(8346 High Knob Road, Frederick, MD 21702)

Preparations are almost complete for a wonderful event that will include an Artist-in-Residence art exhibit (pieces will be available for purchase!), an informative hike around the High Knob area (6-6:30), an interactive “Build a Tree Activity” (7-7:30), and multiple craft tables for youth to create (and take home) a memorable gift for mom for Mother’s Day. Please join in the festivities. If you would like to help with the event and/or if you have a special craft talent you would like to share, please reach out to Shelley (Shellbio@aol.com or 301-471-7434) as soon as possible. Thank you.

Also...

The Fourth Grade EKO Field Trips have begun! CFA volunteers help support the Catoctin Mountain fourth grade field trips promoting the importance of caring for our natural resources. If anyone is interested in helping with these field trips, please reach out to Ranger Carrie at Catoctin Mountain Park. It is a wonderful opportunity to “get involved” in modeling good stewardship for future generations.

Keep an eye out for additional upcoming CFA opportunities this summer, fall, and winter. Much more to come!



News from the State Park

Maryland Iron Festival May 20 and 21, 2023

Celebrate our region’s history as an early center for iron making at this festival featuring blacksmithing demonstrations; hands-on casting and molding demonstrations by experts from Hopewell Furnace National

Historic Site; a live Iron pour with hands-on activities with Keystone Ironworks guided tours of the historic Harriet Chapel; children's games and activities; live music; a beer and wine garden; food trucks; an artist and maker market; whimsical cannonball tosses and anvil-lifting contests; make it/take it opportunities, guided hikes in nearby Catoctin Mountain Park and more! The museum of the Ironworker will be open all weekend! Use this link for more details: <https://catoctinfurnace.org/events/>

Volunteers are needed. Contact tdonnelly@catoctinfurnace.org if you would like to help out.



News from Catoctin Mountain Park

“We could have never loved the earth so well if we had had no childhood in it.”

-George Eliot-

Although Eliot wrote that famous line about nature over a century and a half ago, the premise still rings true today for Catoctin Mountain Park. Especially in May, with the return of educational programming centered around fourth graders. The park’s education specialist, Ranger Carrie, has spent the month of April trekking over Frederick County to prep the students for their field trips to the park. Starting the last week of April field trips will begin coming to Chestnut Picnic Area and the Spicebush Nature Trail to reveal the splendor of nature and their national park to another generation. Education programs will run through the end of May so the mountain will be alive with the voices of the next generation of park rangers, scientists, and naturalists.

Although Ranger Carrie is the reason behind the in-park school season, the programs could not happen without the continued support of volunteers. Thank you to all who continue to support and nurture the appreciation of the outside world to the students of Frederick County. The park’s community volunteer ambassador, Rachel has been busy organizing volunteer projects and onboarding prospective VIPs, but she welcomes another volunteer application, so don’t be shy! You could be trained by the best in the National Park Service. For those who helped with the volunteer project in April, the park thanks you for your dedication and service. We can all agree though a thank you is much deserved for Rachel and Ranger Chris for their leadership in the volunteer event as well!

In addition to educational programming the park will host a Wildflower Walk on May 14th—a great way to treat the mothers in your life—along with participating in Maryland Iron Festival the weekend of May 20th and 21st. Come learn the history of charcoal making on the mountain by joining in on a walking tour of the Charcoal Trail led by park staff at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The division has welcomed back Ranger Victoria for a second season, and she is joined by two other seasonal park rangers, Gabrielle and Jennifer. All three look forward to welcoming you, whether a repeat visitor or first-timers, to Catoctin Mountain Park. All three are busy working on various ranger programs, as the division looks to offer a full schedule of programs from Memorial Day through October. The park will publicize the schedule on our website and social media outlets, so stay tuned in the coming weeks!

Like the fourth graders who will be experiencing the wonderful history and nature of Catoctin Mountain Park, the division of interpretation and education has one last message to pass on. There is no age limit to exploring the park and realizing those childhood tendencies of exploration and wonder. Feel free to laugh and smile like a fourth grader as you do.

See you on the mountain!

Phillip S. Greenwalt
Chief of Interpretation and Education

Many Thanks to our Donors



Mighty Oak Level

- Carroll Children's Center
- Wagester Family of Woodsboro, Md.

Sapling Level

- Community Foundation of Frederick
- Exelon Corporation

Consider Donating to CFA

To help CFA continue its programs to preserve and protect the Catocin Mountain forest, please consider, making a donation. CFA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization so your donations will be tax deductible. Any donation over \$20 will include a one-year CFA membership. Here is what your donation could do.

- \$50 will buy notebooks or clipboards for 40 children at the week-long day camp.
- \$120 will cover the cost for one child to attend the week-long day camp
- \$125 will provide food for 40 children for one day of day camp.
- \$200 helps sponsor the Artist in Residence program
- \$364 will buy protective equipment for a SUCCESS program youth.
- \$400 will buy bus transportation for 40 children to day camp for one day.
- \$1300 will fund the SUCCESS program for one year.



Giving Levels

- **Acorn** up to \$99
- **Seedling** \$100- 499.99
- **Sapling** \$500-999.99
- **Mighty Oak** \$1000 and over

Donations checks can be made out to CFA and sent to Catocin Forest Alliance, PO Box 411, Thurmont, MD 21788

Join or Renew your Membership to CFA

We'd love to have you join us in our mission to protect the Catoctin Mountain forest. Your support would be a great benefit to us and the forest.

To join CFA or renew your membership, please send the membership application form and a check made out to **Catoctin Forest Alliance** with notation "**Membership**" to the address below. The yearly membership dues are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple for the period December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

You can also join online at <http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org/index.php/join>.

Kathy Byrne
CFA Treasurer
123 Ironmaster Dr.
Thurmont, MD 21788

New members will receive a CFA patch



Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Committee Interest

Strategic Planning ____	Membership ____	Conservation/Education ____
Fundraising ____	Artist in Residence ____	Marketing/Publicity ____
Information Technology ____	Finance ____	

Visit our website at www.catoctinforestalliance.org