



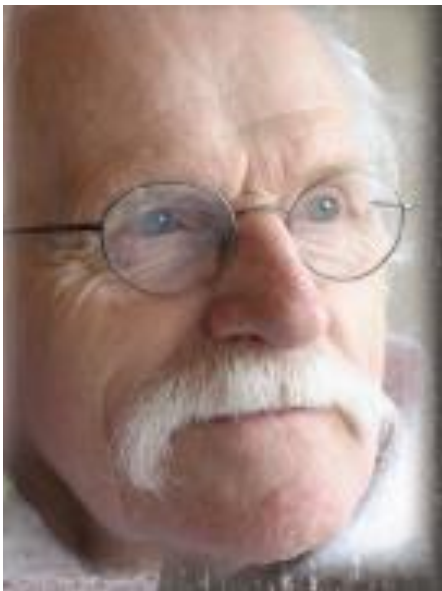
# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 8 No. 4 October 2018

[www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)

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



## Poet in Residency

The Catoctin Forest Alliance and Catoctin Mountain Park were proud to welcome Carlos Reyes as the Poet in Residence from September 9-22, 2018.

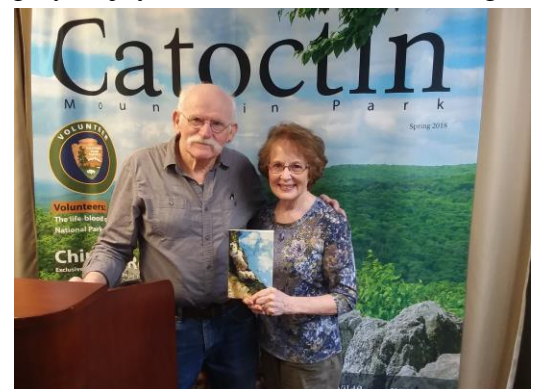
An Irish-American poet and translator, Carlos Reyes lives in Portland, Oregon when he is not in County Clare, Ireland or traveling to the Canary Islands, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Greece, India, Panama, or Spain, giving readings of his own work and connecting with poets in other countries.

Carolyn Kizer said, “Mr. Reyes is one of our local and national treasures. His poetry is as clear and strong as his social conscience. One is always struck by his sensual and sensory qualities: the touch, taste, feel, color of things and his ability to capture a mood, a world in a handful of lines.”

Mr. Reyes has written nine books of poetry. He has been a Yaddo Fellow, a fellow twice at the Fundacion Valparaise (Mojacar, Spain) and awarded a fellowship at the Heinrich Boll Cottage (Achill Island, Ireland). He has been a Poet in Residence at Joshua Tree National Park, the Sitka Island Institute, Sitka, Alaska, Acadia National Park and Devil’s Tower National Monument. While he was in residence at Joshua Tree National Park, he wrote a poem that was later displayed in the new visitor center at the park.

While in residence at Catoctin Mountain Park, Mr. Reyes wrote 17 poems about the park and its structures. His whole two week stay was soaked with rain and his poems reflect that condition. He did a poetry reading at the park on September 20 and everyone there thoroughly enjoyed his work. He has a great talent for seeing what is around him and painting a verbal picture of what he sees in just a few words. On the following page you will be able to enjoy three of his poems about Catoctin Mountain Park.

*Photo taken at the poetry reading on Sept. 20. Mr. Reyes with Linda Sundergill, Chairman of the CFA Artist in Residence Committee, holding a copy of one of the poet’s books.*



*A few of the many poems written by Carlos Reyes during his residency in Catoctin Mountain Park.*

### ON MISTY MOUNT IN FALL

I lie here in Cabin 16  
beneath dripping hickory, oak  
and tulip poplar, under a box car  
load of rain that sweeps in from the Atlantic  
ahead of Tropical Storm Florence  
muddying my night time thoughts

In Stone's Logging Camp  
on the Oregon Coast Range  
where waves of clouds sweep in  
from the Pacific 12 miles away.  
where at first rise in elevation  
they let fall most of their moisture

Keeping a vigil with an older sister  
we delve into and talk to  
Death every piece of our lives  
buried in soaking duff and moss  
sheltered in an island of surviving  
one hundred foot Douglas fir trees

Whatever we hope to solve to discover  
in these nocturnal amblings— she asks me  
again If I want another cup of coffee, she  
smokes another Parliament, holding it  
between thin fingers in imitation  
of some long dead movie queen

We carry on until the night is quiet,  
until Gold Creek is almost silent  
as it tumbles into the Trask River giving  
second wind to almost spent Steelhead  
and Coho drawn upstream sure  
their destiny, driven to it unknowing

The best we can come up with:  
The Big Dipper then Polaris through  
the black green canopy if clouds break  
for something other than rain, certain

only of true north  
but only fairly certain

### PAST

—Blue Blazes Whiskey Still

Mist condenses, drips from trees  
a brook trout leaps for a mosquito  
from water in a branch  
of Big Hunting Creek

A single drop from copper  
blue shadows creep like ribbons  
of fog, bootleggers slipping  
through the trees

On a windless day the scent  
of earth, of moonshine rises  
from around battered pot stills

you think steam, you  
know it's morning mist

“... THAT THEY MIGHT ENJOY AND FIND  
PEACE IN THE WPA BUILT CHESTNUT  
LOG CABINS”

--from an NPS brochure

The British sailor sits on the edge  
Of my bunk, a bed more commodious

than his hammock aboard ship in 1941  
The photograph says:”A British sailor relaxes

in a cabin at Camp Misty Mount”  
Hidden away in the forest, remote

from the North Atlantic, the angst of  
surviving ice chopped seas, night

grey German U-Boats, the shark  
rippling trail of the pursuing tin fish

of death.... While he sleeps  
mist and fog surrounding the camp

take him safely to the Thames.



## **Nappanee, Indiana Community Returns for the Second Annual CFA Reunion**

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director



If nothing else, March weather is unpredictable. The annual Amish work crews have experienced cold weather, snow and bare trees, Spring warmth, showers and flowers, (sometimes in the same week.) Many have said how exciting it would be to visit when the leaves are in full color.

The Tourism Council of Frederick County is attempting to make this dream come true by providing bus transportation for 50 members of the Nappanee Community for the second consecutive year. The Tourism Council guarantees the bus but cannot guarantee the fall color that appears to be stunted by the year's unusual weather. (Maybe this is an incentive to have the group return again next year.)

A three couple advance group will arrive by train on Monday, October 29. This group will work to complete renovations of the Camp Greentop Stable and to prepare for the remaining 48 community members arriving at the Sleep Inn in Emmitsburg around midnight on Friday, November 2. The hardy group will be up and at it early Friday morning, planning to arrive at Camp Greentop around 9:00 a.m. to assist with minor cabin repairs. Friday will conclude with a visit to the Frederick County Visitor Center and dinner in Frederick.

If weather permits, the group will finish projects at Camp Greentop, and then spend the remainder of the day hiking on Saturday. The entire Amish group will join friends of the Catoctin Forest Alliance for our annual reunion at the Camp Greentop Dining Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 3 before returning to Indiana on Sunday morning.

We hope that you can join us for the:

Second Annual CFA Reunion

Camp Greentop Dining Hall

6:00 p.m., Saturday, November 3

Dinner is provided but you are invited to bring a salad or dessert to share.

**Please RSVP Debbie Mills at [debbiemills11770@gmail.com](mailto:debbiemills11770@gmail.com) by October 30**

# Save the Date

Catoctin Forest Alliance Craft Night  
6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 14  
Location to be determined

Why pay Craft Show Prices?

Make Your Own Candy Cane  
Wreath

At the

Catoctin Forest Alliance Craft Night  
6:30 p.m .  
Wednesday, November 14



Materials and guidance provided to make your individual creation. Great for home decorations, gifts or for memorial wreathes

Cost is \$25 per person

Make reservations and payment by  
November 7 by contacting Debbie Mills at  
[debbiemills11770@gmail.com](mailto:debbiemills11770@gmail.com)

Pre-made wreathes available for \$10 additional by special order

Proceeds benefit Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp and other educational programs of the Catoctin Forest Alliance. Visit [catoctinforestalliance.org](http://catoctinforestalliance.org) to learn more about the Catoctin Forest Alliance.



## Upcoming CFA Events by Shelley Miller

The Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA) will once again serve at the Frederick **Barnes & Noble gift wrapping** table this holiday season. The dates are: Thursday December 20 from 4pm to closing and Friday December 21 from 4pm to closing. Anyone interested in volunteering for any amount of time is welcome. The Frederick Barnes and Noble is located at 5500 Buckeystown Pike in Frederick, MD. No experience is necessary and all paper and needed items (including tables, chairs, scissors, tape, and gift enclosure cards) are supplied by Barnes and Noble. CFA needs only to supply the volunteers. 😊 Volunteers are welcome to stay one hour or the whole time. CFA welcomes your involvement whatever it may be.

The gift wrapping table operates on a donation only basis, with all donations going to the giftwrapping organization. Please share CFA’s participation in this fundraiser with friends and family who may enjoy shopping at Barnes and Noble during the times CFA will be serving (when those dates are determined) knowing that the CFA will be there to wrap their purchases and make their holiday preparations that much easier. Whether you wish to volunteer at the gift wrapping table or simply support CFA by visiting the gift wrapping table, you are welcome! Barnes and Noble has a lovely café. It is a wonderful place to relax, enjoy a hot beverage, and write holiday notes to friends and family. They also offer free Wi-Fi.

To sign up to volunteer at the gift wrapping table please contact Shelley Miller by email at [Shellbio@aol.com](mailto:Shellbio@aol.com) or phone 301-471-7434 (call or text). A schedule will be created and shared aiming for at least two volunteers to be present at any given time (the table can accommodate three or four wrappers if anyone wishes to work with more than one other person). You are welcome to join us for all or portions of the gift wrapping opportunities. Hope to see you at Barnes and Noble!

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Remember also the **CFA Holiday Open House** will be held on Wednesday Dec. 19 from 4 pm-8 pm at the Lewis property (317 West Main Street in Thurmont). Music by Gene Sarno and Steve Hess (<http://www.sarno-n-hess.com/>) will be enjoyed 4:30-5:30. We will once again hold a raffle of donated items (to support future CFA programs). We hope CFA members, friends, and family will stop by anytime to share holiday joy and light refreshments.

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Don’t forget to save the date for the **second Annual CFA Groundhog Day Eve (Pre-Valentine's Day) Event at Springfield Manor** on Friday Feb. 1, 2019 from 3-9 pm. There will be trivia from 7-9! Whenever purchasing food or drink that evening, please mention you are supporting the efforts of CFA. A portion of the proceeds from sales that evening will be donated back to CFA in support of upcoming educational outreach programs. Hope to see you (and friends and family) there!



# Sharing the Love of Our National and State Parks, Forests, and Monuments

by Shelley Miller

I have been an avid Park, Forest and Monument supporter for as long as I can remember. I had the honor of serving as a seasonal naturalist at Gambrill State Park many moons ago. A lifelong love and respect for nature was instilled in me by my parents/family through many years of camping, hiking, and canoeing. Vacations embraced park visits and nature hikes from the time I was a little girl well into adulthood.

I recently had the opportunity to travel “out west” with friends in their fifth wheel camper. The trip was two years in the planning and offered a journey that allowed me to visit a national monument (Mt. Rushmore), a State Park (Custer State Park), and eight National Parks (Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Yosemite, Kings Canyon, Sequoia, Joshua Tree, Grand Canyon, and the Petrified Forest). I imagine some (or many) reading this have been blessed to visit some (or all) of these marvelous places as well.

My connection with the Catoctin Forest Alliance fills me with a sense of profound purpose in encouraging the preservation and sustainability of places like these and our own epic beauties of nature, especially the Catoctin Forest. Therefore, I thought it might be appropriate to share a few of my pictures with you in this CFA newsletter. I hope you enjoy and are left with a sense of appreciation of their beauty in addition to the appreciation for the beauty of our own region.



Mt Rushmore National Monument  
National Park



Bison at Custer State Park



Fumerals at Yellowstone



Old Faithful beginning to erupt  
(Yellowstone)



Elk at Yellowstone National Park



Fumeral at Yellowstone National Park





Elk between Yellowstone and Grand Tetons



Grand Tetons from atop Teton Village



El Capitan & Half Dome (Yosemite)



Half Dome up close (Yosemite)



Kings Canyon National Park



Sequoia National Park

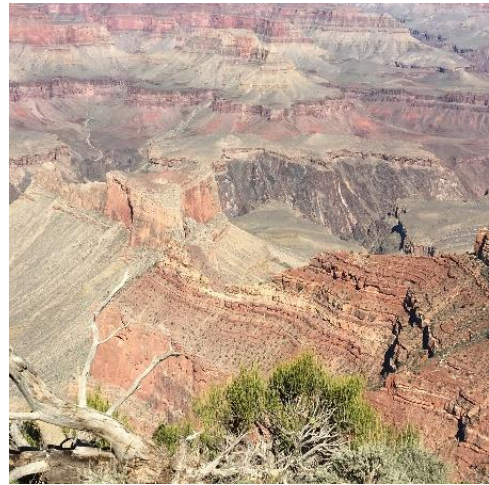


Joshua Tree National Park





Grand Canyon National Park



Grand Canyon National Park



Petrified Forest National Park  
(Petrified National Forest)



Plant beauty perseveres



## **CFA Receives Maryland Horse Industry Grant**

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

Each year the State of Maryland donates \$6 per ton of horse feed sold to the Maryland Horse Industry Board. Among other goals, the MHIB seeks to create public awareness of the value of equine activities relative to green space preservation. The Catoctin Forest Alliance is a proud recipient of a 2018 Maryland Horse Industry Grant for the preservation and promotion of the Catoctin Mountain Park Horse Trail.

With a total distance of approximately 6 miles, the Catoctin Mountain Park Horse Trail is a hidden gem tucked in the north-west corner of the park. While open for both hiking and horse- back riding, the trail receives less use than eastern hiking trails and often ranks low in trail maintenance priorities. Obvious trail issues range from the simple, like invasive plants strangling the tread surface to the complex, including drainage problems that continually erode the path.

The Catoctin Mountain Park Resource Management Staff and Catoctin Forest Alliance President Jim Robbins are working together to develop a plan to restore and maintain the Horse Trail. Maryland Horse Industry Grant funds purchased electric string trimmers and hand tools that will be used by volunteer work crews that will work on specified trail projects.

The electric string trimmers proved invaluable this summer as crews used these environmentally sound and extremely efficient machines to clear invasive grasses from the trail. These trimmers are currently serving an additional purpose as Jim Robbins uses them to teach power tool safety to the SUCCESS group. SUCCESS will use the trimmers and other hand tools to help with horse trail maintenance in the spring.

Plans are currently underway to organize service groups and individual volunteers to put the MHIB purchased tools to work on Horse Trail Projects in 2019. Please contact Jim Robbins at [jimrobbins@comcast.net](mailto:jimrobbins@comcast.net) to volunteer or learn more about CFA Horse Trail Maintenance Projects and CFA efforts to introduce regional horse groups to the Catoctin Mountain Park Horse Trail.

### **A Note from our President, Jim Robbins**

I'm just back home after 7 weeks traveling in the Western and Southwestern United States. What a wonderful and beautiful country we live in. The mountains, basins, valleys, rock formations, national and state parks and the views are all wonderful. We had excellent weather, traveled over 8,957 miles and visited with friends in many parts of the country. I missed the trees and friends at home along with home itself. Seeing all the changes in our travels: lost views from development, development without regard to resources and the effect on areas many miles from the development was concerning. We need to protect our great Catoctin Mountains.

Please read and not just pass by the newsletter with a click. We, CFA, have many activities going on and can always use help with them. No long-time commitment needs to be made. An hour can make a huge difference. Ron Harvey and Peggie Gaul at the Visitor Center are always looking for people to help as well.

The Amish will be visiting Catoctin Mountain Park in November (2-4) thanks to the Tourism Council of Frederick County. This will be a great time to come and visit with some great people that do amazing work for our Park. Bring a picnic (at Green Top), visit, hike and enjoy. Fun is an enjoyable part of the mountains.

## CFA Calendar 2018

### October

24 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property

### November

14 Craft Night 6:30pm, location to be determined. See flyer on page 3

### December

19 CFA General Meeting and Christmas Party 4pm at the Lewis property. See article page 4

20 Gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble 4pm to closing. See article on page 4

21 Gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble 4pm to closing. See article on page 4



## Cunningham Falls State Park Happenings 2018-2019

Interpretive programs for visitors are offered during the day and may vary in length and content on weekends through Labor Day. Be sure to call ahead for the latest information on upcoming programs. 301-271-7574.

October 28 **5K Fun Run/Walk**

***Cunningham Falls State Park***

***William Houck Lake Area*** Enjoy Frederick County's most scenic 5K Fun Run/Walk in the fall foliage and crisp air. Space is limited so register early. For information and to reserve your space, visit [www.cunninghamgambrill.org](http://www.cunninghamgambrill.org).

January 1, 2019

**First Day Hikes**

***Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks***

Start the New Year off on the right foot by taking a hike through Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. Rangers will be on hand to guide hikers and answer questions. For more information about location and time of hikes, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/firstdayhikes.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/firstdayhikes.aspx)



## News from Catoctin Mountain Park

### Public Lands Day a Great Success

by Lorne Haines, Community Volunteer Ambassador

Thank you all for making National Public Lands Day a success! Just look at the transformation below!



Owens Creek Picnic area is now a pillar of the west side of the park! We could not have made the area so welcoming without everyone's efforts. This is just the beginning of the transformation to the picnic area and Browns Farm trail. The new grills will be going in as soon as the area dries out, and we have two upcoming Eagle projects on the Brown's Farm trail.

In total we had 188 service hours and 47 volunteers at the event! In addition to everyone who came out on Saturday, I would like to give a special shout out to the tree amigos, Troop 270, and the Naval Support Facility for assisting in preparing for the project. Thank you all.





## October Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park

Catoctin Mountain Park is offering a range of fun, free and educational programs in the month of October. Visitors of all ages can enjoy the stunning beauty of the park on a ranger-led hike or learn about the age-old craft of blacksmithing. With the exception of the Spicebush Trail, all hikes take place on terrain that is mostly flat but rocky, so sturdy shoes are recommended.

10 AM Sunday, October 21 - Hike to the Hog Rock Overlook. Meet at the Hog Rock Parking Area.

1-4 PM Sunday, October 21 - Blacksmith demonstrations in the historic Blacksmith Shop at Camp Round Meadow. Demonstrations will highlight the art and skill of forging and shaping metal.

10 AM Saturday, October 27 - Hike to the Hog Rock Overlook. Meet at the Hog Rock Parking Area

10 AM Sunday, October 28 - Hike along the Spicebush Trail. Meet at the Chestnut Picnic Area. This walk will be wheelchair and stroller accessible.

### October 27, 2018

An Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 128 will be completing a project on the Brown's Farm trail. He will be replacing the railing around the historic well and be making a map box similar to the other boxes found around the park to identify the trail. More details will be forthcoming.

Ongoing Opportunities

### Mobile Tables (October During Fall Colors)

On busy weekends, we are looking for people to assist us with setting up remote informative tables at the parking areas around the park. Basically you would serve as a mobile desk out in the park. You can provide information about the park, provide hiking suggestions, and answer visitor's questions. In addition to pamphlets and information, our kits include interpretive items about the charcoal industry including pig iron, ore, and photos of collier huts; as well as wildlife items like skulls, animal skins, taxidermy birds, and tracks.

This opportunity will allow us to extend our interaction with visitors out into the park, increase our ability to give informal programs on busy weekends, and allow us to keep track of the parking situation in the mobile lots.

The primary locations we will look at setting up mobile tables for are Hog Rock and the Charcoal Loop. The charcoal items would be ideal for the Charcoal/Thurmont Vista parking area. The wildlife items could really be used from any lot. If interested, you could also put together your own collection of items that fit your knowledge specialty. Let us know if you would like to participate and what days you are interested in having a mobile table.

### Falls Nature Trail and Yellow Loop Blazing

The blazes on the yellow loop are getting very faint, and trees have fallen in many places, which makes it hard to identify the next blaze on the path. We are looking for our trail stewards to help us rectify the situation. We have the yellow paint at the Visitor Center. If you would like to update the blazes while you are out please let us know, so we can address this issue as soon as possible.



## Bridge to be replaced at Catoctin Mountain Park

*Project will impact parking at visitor center*

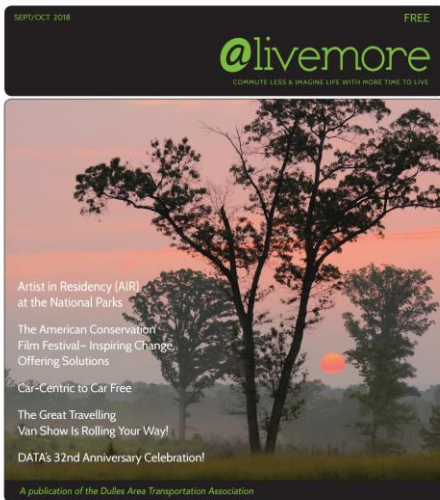
Submitted by Peggie Gaul Acting Chief of Interpretation and Visitors Services

In November, the National Park Service will begin work on the replacement of a bridge leading to the auxiliary parking area at the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center. The project will also involve rehabilitation of the parking area, and the lot will remain closed until next summer. The project will result in facility enhancements, including an upgraded, safer pedestrian walkway and more clearly designated parking spots. However, during the project period, the visitor center may have parking shortages, especially on busy weekends.

During this renovation period, park visitors are encouraged to explore the west side of Catoctin Mountain Park. Ample parking and trail access is available at Owens Creek Picnic Area and Camp Round Meadow. Trail maps for the west side of the park will be available at those locations.

Additional parking, trail access and trail maps are available at the Wolf Rock, Thurmont Vista, and Hog Rock Overlook parking areas. Restroom facilities are also available at the Hog Rock Overlook parking area.

For additional information and updates on the project, please visit the park website at [www.nps.cato/cato](http://www.nps.cato/cato) or call the visitor center at 301-663-9388.



## Spring AIR Photographer has Work Published in Magazine

Photographer Jim Schlett was our Spring Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park. After his residency here, he went on to do several more residencies across the country. One of his articles about his Artist in Resident (AIR) at two local National Parks from earlier this year was recently published.

The magazine featured one of his images on the cover as well as the story on pages 6-7. Use the link below to read more.

[https://issuu.com/livemoreva/docs/livemore.sept\\_oct\\_2018](https://issuu.com/livemoreva/docs/livemore.sept_oct_2018)

# 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** to the address below. **The membership dues are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple for the period December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2019. New members joining now will get two months free membership, starting from the date of joining through Dec. 31, 2018 and extending to December 31, 2019.**

**CFA, C/O Linda Sundergill  
Membership Chairman  
7015 Sunday's Lane  
Frederick, MD 21702**

*New members will receive a CFA patch*

*Anyone joining a committee will receive a CFA vest*



**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Interest**

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

**Visit our new website at [www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)**