



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 12 No.3

November 2022

[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*

## Artist in Residence



Susan Lenz presents a program at the Thurmont Regional Library

### Susan Lenz

- Energetic,
- Creative
- Conservation-minded

**Susan Lenz**, a fiber artist, was our Artist in Residence for 2022. She lived in Catoctin Mountain Park from September 7-28. During her residency, Susan presented a

program at the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center, two programs at the Thurmont Regional Library and a program in Fairfield, Pennsylvania for a quilter's guild. She also hiked every trail in Catoctin Mountain Park (some more than once), made 60 fiber bowls and nearly completed a crazy quilt that is her donation to the Catoctin Forest Alliance art collection. All of Susan's presentations maintained a strong focus on conservation. Most of the materials she uses in her creations are recycled, aside from some new thread. She pointed out that the highest percentage of material in the landfill is fabric. Susan is doing all she can to recycle fabric and other materials used in her projects. To learn more about Susan and her visit to Catoctin Mountain Park, check out the link below.

[Art In Stitches: September 2022 \(artbysusanlenz.blogspot.com\)](http://artbysusanlenz.blogspot.com)

Using the link below, you can view a video that was taped by the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show while Susan was in residency at Catoctin Mountain Park.

<https://www.pmacraftshow.org/artist-talk/2022/susan-lenz>



**This is a portion of the crazy quilt that Susan Lenz donated to the Catoctin Forest Alliance Art Collection.**



## A Note from CFA President, Jim Robbins

Well summer is over and the mountains have been beautiful with the changing of the leaves. Our Artist in Residence, Susan Lenz, did some wonderful programs in Catoctin Mountain Park, at the Thurmont Library and other locations within Frederick County. If you did not have the chance to meet her, you missed seeing a wonderful artist.

The SUCCESS youth are working on projects within our Parks and learning while having fun. We have six youth this year and we will need all of them to complete the many projects that the Parks have for us. The FUN has begun as well as the learning. I love the woods at this time of the year, the beauty and peace that dwells within it.

Our Every Kid in the Park program is busy with fourth graders in the park with lots of learning to be had and energy that will keep us on the go. It is so great to see the youth having fun while learning at the same time. The staff from the park and CFA do an outstanding job.

We have waited for 3 years (due to the COVID interruption) for the Charcoal Sled. from the Charcoal Trail to be redone (See *The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin* – Vol. 12 May, 2022 for additional pictures). On Tuesday (July 19, 2022) the old sled was dismantled, placed in my truck and left for Nappanee, IN where it arrived on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. The Amish had agreed to make a new sled and return it to the park in October, 2022. Well, the “new” sled has returned and was placed on the Charcoal Trail on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. With the help of some 10 young men the 600-700 pound sled was carried ¼ mile and placed at its home in the park. The pictures do not do it justice, you must see it to really understand the detail of the sled. The many angles involved in making it and the love that went into it. It took four people from the Amish community in Nappanee, Indiana 280 hours to complete this project. David Miller, Howard Chupp, Dale Hochstetler, Wayne Borkholder and Christ Hochstetler were the carpenters.

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 501(c)3 nonprofit. If you have any questions about CFA, our programs or questions in general please visit our web site ([www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)) or you can reach me, Jim Robbins, at [jimrobbins@comcast.net](mailto:jimrobbins@comcast.net) or 301-693-9703.

Jim Robbins

President, CFA

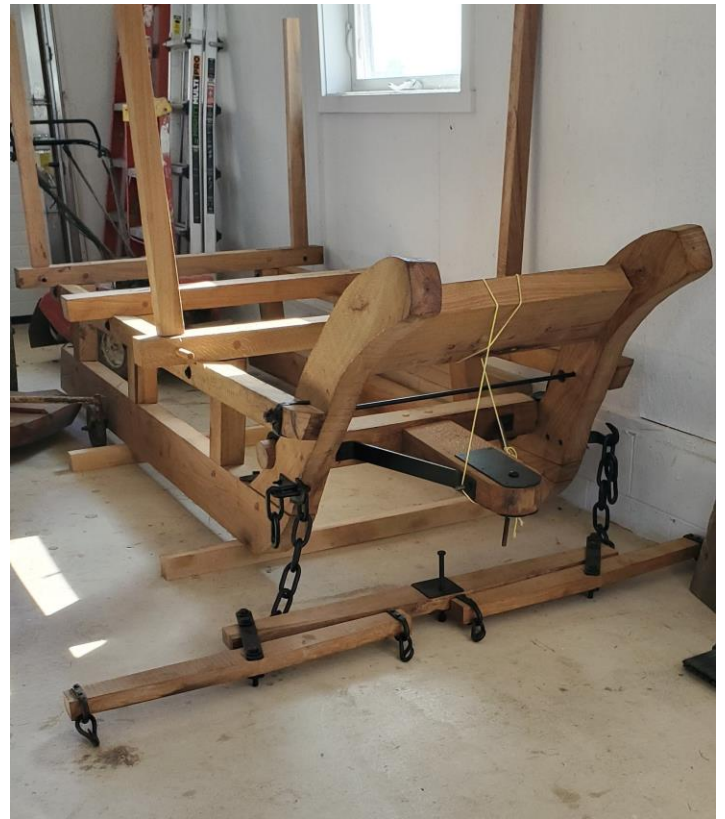
## The Charcoal Shed Before and After



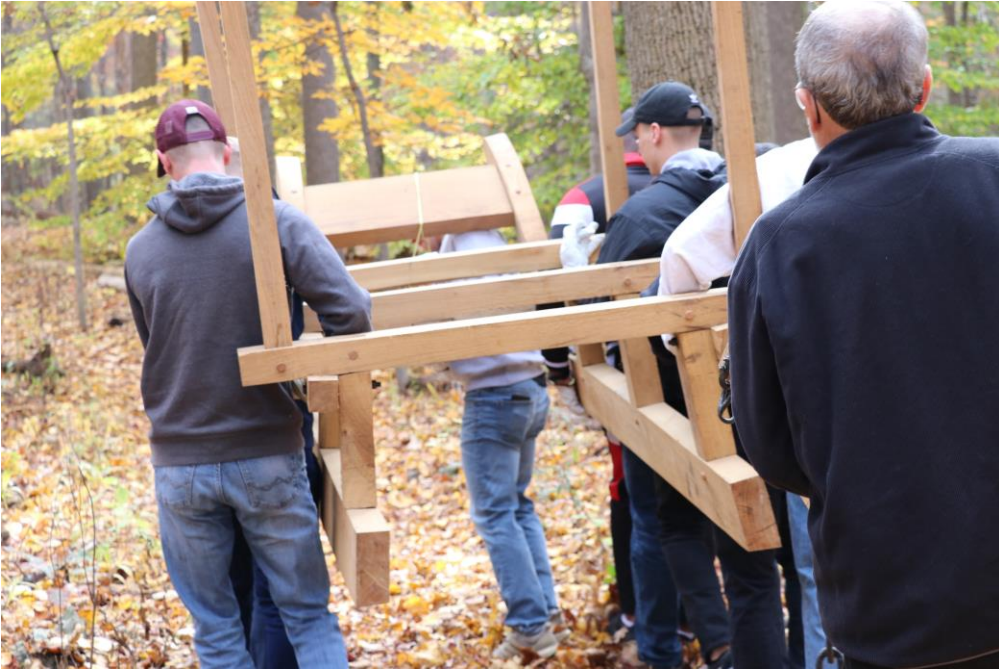
Skeleton of charcoal sled—this is what was taken to Indiana for restoration



Charcoal sled during restoration.



The Charcoal Sled was returned to Catoctin Mountain Park by the Amish on October 28<sup>th</sup>. It was carried to its resting place on the Charcoal Trail by 10 men.



Home again on the Charcoal Trail



## A Note from Shelley Miller, CFA Fundraising Chairman



Hello CFA Family! If you have already renewed your membership with CFA, thank you! Although membership is not mandatory to be involved, your membership enrollment has a positive impact on many levels. First you are supporting the many wonderful programs of CFA continually (and CFA thanks you!). Second, you are sure to be included on membership (and often board) emails that go above and beyond the general emails and bulletins. So, if you have not done so, please go to the website,

[www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org) or use the form on the last page of this newsletter to be sure you have joined or renewed. As always, please share CFA membership information with anyone interested in preserving the Catoctin Mountain forest for present and future generations. Many exciting things continue to happen in CFA and we hope you will be a part of them!

### Boscov's Friends Helping Friends, Oktoberfest and the CFA Raffle

The Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event was a great success thanks to the effort of many. CFA offered passes early, had passes available at the Schifferstadt Oktoberfest, and participated in the actual Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day by hosting a table at Frederick's Boscov's on Oct. 19. This event, coupled with a CFA raffle (baskets donated by McCutcheon's Apple Products in Frederick and Sam's Club of Frederick), contributed to CFA raising over \$900 to support its educational and service projects. Thank you to all who helped with these efforts!

Congratulations to Raffle winners: Cully Leck and Sunora Knill !!



Cully with the McCutcheon's basket he won.



Jim Sundergill and Shelley Miller man a booth at Boscov's for the fundraiser

## **Gift Wrapping Fund Raiser at Boscov's**

As many know, CFA has (for years) participated in a gift wrapping fund raiser/outreach offered by Barnes and Noble. This program is no longer being offered at the Barnes and Noble in Frederick. But fret not! This year CFA is grateful to be participating in the Boscov's holiday gift wrapping service! We are looking for volunteers to serve shifts at the gift wrapping table!! Anyone willing to serve in this way please contact Shelley ([Shellbio@aol.com](mailto:Shellbio@aol.com) or 301-471-7434 (Feel free to call or text). A schedule will be generated and shared with those volunteering. So far, we are looking for the following shifts:

Friday Nov. 25 10 am-2 pm

Friday Nov. 25 2 pm-6 pm

Saturday Nov. 26 10 am-2 pm

Saturday Nov. 26 2 pm-6 pm

Sunday Nov. 27 10 am-2 pm

Sunday Nov. 27 2 pm-6 pm

Thursday Dec. 22 4 pm-9 pm

Friday Dec. 23 4pm- 9 pm

(Note more shifts may be added at a later date)

Boscov's provides all needed giftwrap and supplies. We need only be there to offer the service. It is a free service but donations are accepted. It is an especially fun time when two people serve together for a shift!! So please consider serving at the table individually, with a friend, or with a significant other (or spouse) and have a few hours of quality time serving the community while helping to support the CFA educational outreach and preservation programs!

## **CFA Holiday Gathering and Pre-Valentine's Day Groundhog Day Event**

Many of you have asked about the CFA Holiday Gathering and the annual Pre-Valentine's Day Groundhog Day event. CFA is trying something a little different this year for the Holiday Gathering. We are in the process of planning this...Look for more to come!

The Pre-Valentine's Day Ground Hog Day event is usually held at the Springfield Winery. The winery will be closed temporarily during January and February of next year (reopening in March). Therefore, we are attempting to make arrangements to hold this event elsewhere. We will let you know as soon as we know where and when. Thank you for the many inquiries. (And we will attempt to schedule another spring event at Springfield! ☺)

## **On a personal note,**

I would like to share that I have thoroughly enjoyed volunteering with the Fourth Grade Field Trips in Catoctin Mountain Park for many years. This Fall is no exception. CFA's support of the Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) program has been a long standing one. Debbie Mills remains a vital piece in the development of the programs used in EKO. The current fourth grade program started as an extension of the Camp Catoctin Summer Day Camp program initiated and developed by Debbie and the CFA. For the past five years Carrie Andresen-Strawn has done an incredible job carrying on, expanding upon, and adapting these effective programs with the help of colleagues and volunteers. Katrinka Westendorf, Mel Poole, Daryl Despres, Cully Leck, and John Zuke are key volunteers. I encourage anyone wishing to get involved in this exceptional program (offered by Catoctin Mountain Park) to reach out to me (Shelley at [Shellbio@aol.com](mailto:Shellbio@aol.com) or 301-471-7434) or Ranger Carrie Andresen-Strawn of Catoctin Mountain Park ([Carrie\\_Andresen@nps.gov](mailto:Carrie_Andresen@nps.gov)). Thank you.



## News from Catoctin Mountain Park

“Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree”

-Emily Bronte

Catoctin Mountain Park is a prime example of the truth and beauty of that poetic message. As autumn continues to unfold in its plethora of colors around the mountain, I’d like to reflect on some of the accomplishments and highlights of the past few months by the Division of Interpretation and Education.

From the public information desk, the park was highlighted as a great place to bring four-legged visitors, especially dogs, we were interviewed by a reporter from “The Dog People.” Check out the article about the park and our great B.A.R.K. Ranger program here.

['Bark Rangers' Protect Wildlife & More at National Parks \(rover.com\)](https://www.rover.com)

The park was also selected to be featured in the online publication website Thrillist about how to recreate safely and enjoyably during the fall.

[How to See Fall Foliage, Tips from National Park Experts - Thrillist](https://www.thrillist.com)

Public programming returned as well, with the park continuing to strengthen the connection with Thurmont Library through “Tyke Hikes” on the second Friday of every month. Record attendance to one hike topped at over 50 children, parents, and adults! Campfire programs returned on Saturday nights as well this year, as rangers provided programs on a variety of topics, including weather, animals, and the history of the O.S.S. here on the mountain.

In our education department you may have seen a blur, which would be Ranger Carrie loading up a vehicle to present at a school or charging up the mountain to Chestnut Picnic Area to welcome students to the national park. She continues to take the education department of the park to new heights, reaching over 3,600 Frederick County 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the spring and early fall programming! This included welcoming students from the Maryland School for the Deaf for the first time ever.

Our digital presence has helped the park reach newer audiences, as Ranger Dorothy spearheads a social media committee with our two seasonal rangers, Victoria, and Tiffany. The park is now active on Instagram and our website is completely 508 compliant, ensuring accessibility to all online visitors. Check out Catoctin’s website, Facebook, and Instagram for all that is happening and help us spread the word.

In the volunteer field, Rachel, our Community Volunteer Ambassador, has continued to build on the great work of Ranger Ron. She successfully led numerous service projects over the summer months managing a volunteer force that numbered over 10,000 hours of time given to the park. Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed at the visitor center, on education programs, and along the trails. The park is a better place because of the dedication of these volunteers. Importantly, Rachel helped the park welcome 305 youth volunteers who contributed 2,817 hours of their time.

The vibrancy of the park is not limited to the color of the leaves this fall. That vibrancy is also evident in the park’s interpretive and education staff and volunteers humming along in the visitor center, roaming the trails, and welcoming visitors to park program. Happy hiking and see you around the mountain!

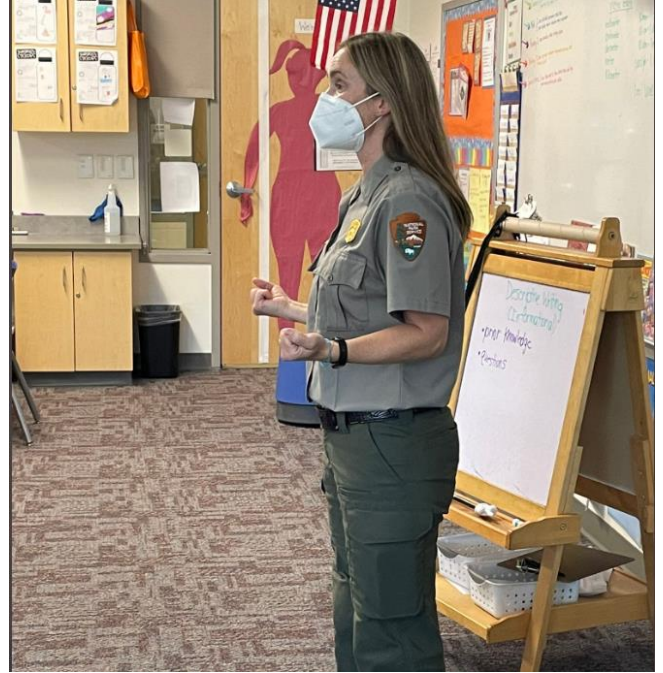


Phillip S. Greenwalt  
Chief of Interpretation and Education



Trail Story Time

Photo credit: John Zuke



Ranger Carrie teaching a class at public school

Photo credit: Backy\_FCPS



Chimney Rock Panorama

Photo credit: John Zuke

## News from the State Park



### Volunteers needed:

**Friends of 10k/5k/Fun Run Walk**

**Sunday, November 6 at 9 a.m.**

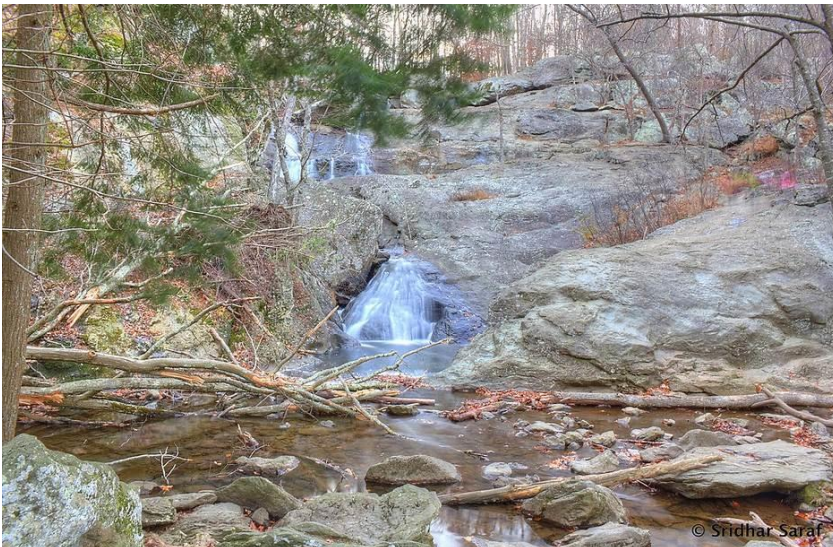


Help direct runners on the course, hand out registration packets, and more. To help with the race, email Rick Canter at [patcmd@yahoo.com](mailto:patcmd@yahoo.com).

The 7th annual footrace occurs at the peak of fall foliage in the cool, crisp weather. This family-friendly event will include food, prizes, and a race T-shirt. The paved 5K begins and ends at the Lake Parking Lot. The 10K is a challenging double-loop of the 5K course. The untimed 1.4-mile Fun Run/Walk is at your own pace. [Learn more and register online.](#)

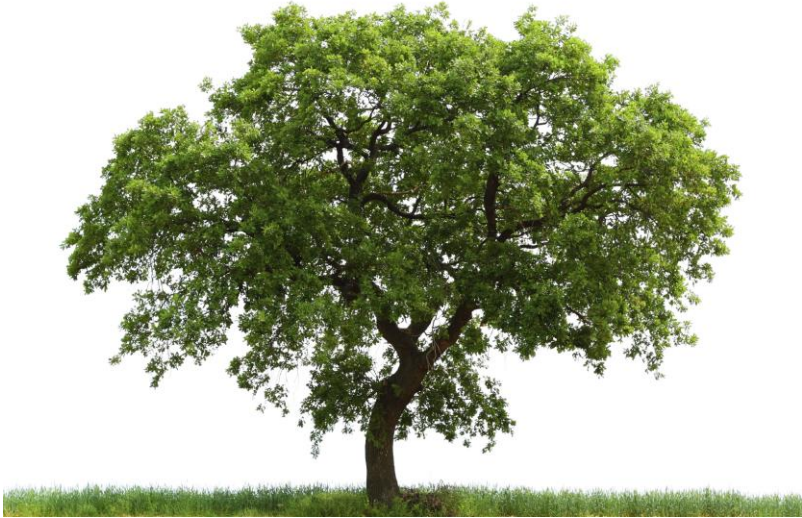
### New Assistant Manager

Cunningham Falls State Park welcomes a new Assistant Park Manager. Her name is Sarah Rodriguez and she transferred in from South Mountain Complex (Greenbrier, etc.)



**Cunningham Falls**

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