



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 5 No. 2 April 2015

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

COME HELP OUT WITH CFA's 3rd ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE



On May 9, 2015, the Catoctin forest Alliance will hold its third annual "Day of Service" at Catoctin Mountain Park. Registration will be from 8-9am. Work will go from 9am until noon and 1pm until done. Sandwiches will be provided by CFA for lunch. Participants will perform tasks that will help the Park to open for the 2015 season. This year's list of tasks includes staining cabins and barberry removal. There is no lower age limit for participants but all will be expected to work for four to five hours that day. The work is usually such that younger children would not be able to contribute but parents can decide on an individual basis if their child will be able to help and not hinder the work effort.

Anyone interested in participating should send an email to jimsundergill@comcast.net to get on the distribution list for upcoming announcements about early registration and tasks to be worked. Last year few of the participants were CFA members. It is hoped that this year more of our membership will want to help the Park in accordance with our CFA goals. As was done last year, the CFA will provide a lunch for all participants. Certification for service hours worked will also be provided.

Artist In Residence Art Exhibit

A large part of the CFA Artist in Residence (AIR) artwork is on display at the Cunningham Falls State Park Visitor's Center. Thanks to Jim Robbins and the SUCCESS students, the lobby of the Visitor's Center got a new coat of paint during the winter and a picture rail system was installed for the art display. We hope you will drop by to see the exhibit and enjoy all the wonderful artwork our AIR artists have done over the past 4 years.



Cunningham Falls State Park Looking for Volunteers

Cunningham Falls State Park is seeing volunteers to help out in the Visitor's Center on Saturdays or Sundays from 10am until 2pm in the month of May. If you have some free time and would like to volunteer, please contact Park Manager, Mark Spurrier at mspurrer@dnr.state.md.us.



Art Exhibit

All About Birds

Saturday & Sunday
June 6th & 7th, 2015

From 2 pm - 5 pm

Other hours by appointment.

Original Paintings, Photographs, Prints and Cards will be available

by local artists

Benefiting the Catoctin Forest Alliance

Light refreshments will be served
& Raffles for special prizes will be available.

At the Art Studio
14726 Old Frederick Road
Rocky Ridge, MD 21778

From Route 15, North or South
Take Route 76 (Motters Station Road)
Turn Right onto Old Frederick Road.
Studio is about a mile on the right,
301-271-4459

The mission of the Catoctin Forest Alliance is to
preserve and promote the health of the Catoctin
Mountain forest for the benefit and enjoyment of
present and future generations.

CFA is a 501-C3 non-profit organization
www.catoctinforall.org

Elizabeth Prongas
14726 Old Frederick Road
Rocky Ridge, MD 21778



SUCCESS Program by Jim Robbins

Lots of things in life start by chance encounters. The SUCCESS program in the Parks is one of those. The Thurmont Library was having a volunteer fair in 2013 and the Catoctin Mountain Park and Catoctin Forest Alliance (a partner with the Parks) took part in it. It was a great event with many volunteer organizations in attendance and people coming through to see if there were any opportunities for their organizations. One of these people was Penny Jurchak from the SUCCESS Program in Walkersville. I had no idea what SUCCESS was all about. All I knew was that there were youth with disabilities that needed something to do and skills to learn. I met with Penny, and Tracy Easterday to discuss the youth working in the Parks. The object was to have them learn:

- the history of the mountain,
- the history of the area that they were going to be working in,
- why the project was important to the Park and the visitors to the Park and
- how to use tools.

It wasn't the work that we did that was important. The important thing was the change in the youth that happened while they were working and learning. Youth who had not been in the woods before experienced the uncertainty that came when the bus left them behind. Then they experienced the woods: walking on unsure ground, walking into a small ravine, and learning about the things around them. They learned safety and how to use woods tools properly. They came to realize that they were just kids, nothing more. They responded to telling them that they could do it and gave high fives when they did do it. They learned to joke around and have FUN.

This leads us to this year and beyond. Our goal this year is twofold:

1. First to have a group of youth working in Cunningham Falls State Park on the trail for people with disabilities. This trail is about ½ mile long and will be an interpretative trail from a playground for youth, to the Manor Visitor Center where information about the history of the park can be found and where live animals are on display in an aviary. The trail then continues on to a Pavilion and parking lot. This is a win-win goal: having youth with disabilities working on a trail for other people with disabilities.
2. Second is the establishment of a Trail Maintenance Crew that will learn skills that will allow them to perform trail maintenance for the state and/or national parks. This program will take about 1 ½ years to complete and it is a very intensive course. It will cover everything from personal safety, personal protective equipment, water safety, first aid and CPR training, safety and how to use the following tools: cutting tools, digging tools, rock tools, wood tools, hoisting tools, measuring tools, power tools and other tools. (As an example: the pulaski, a tool that combines an axe and an adze in one head, similar to that of a mattock, will take 1 week to teach.) It will also cover how and what tools and building materials to use for trail reconstruction. This segment will involve 1 hour in the classroom and 1 hour learning in the woods and will include some Saturdays. The youth will start at 9:00am – 11:00am each school day. In the winter months the youth will learn to use equipment to make signs for the State and National Park.



The Frederick County School System SUCCESS Program is supplying the buses to get the youth to and from the parks. The Catoctin Mountain Park is supplying the training room and outdoor space for practice. The instructors are giving their time and talents for free. The Catoctin Area Civitan Club will donate time and talent to Saturday projects with the Trail Maintenance Crew and a grant for \$2,500. The partners for the project are, Catoctin Mountain Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, Catoctin Area Civitan Club, Frederick County Public School SUCCESS Program, Catoctin Forest Alliance and the Job Corps of Harpers Ferry.

Looking for Old Wool

The Artist in Residence for this summer will be creating sculptures using wool and has asked us to collect damaged items that she can reuse in her art work. As you are cleaning out your closets and getting ready for warmer weather, please bring me any old or damaged 100% wool items that can no longer be worn use, and she will transform them into art.

Thanks,
Peggie Gaul
Park Ranger, Interpretation, Catoctin Mountain Park
6602 Foxville Rd.
Thurmont, MD 21788
301-663-9388

Catoctin Mountain Park and CFA Featured in National Parks Foundation Newsletter

The following article appeared in the March issue of GO PARKS, newsletter of the National Parks Foundation. If you would like see the entire newsletter, go to http://rkd-cdn.nationalparks.org/npf/GOPARKS/newsletters/2015/Mar/goParks_v13no3.html

Get to Know Catoctin Mountain Forest

Home to not one, but two incredible parks — Catoctin Mountain Park (NPS) and Cunningham Falls State Park— Catoctin Mountain Forest is a vast landscape comprised of more than 5,810 acres of winding trails, hardwood trees, and a diverse array of historic structures and resources that reflect the early fabric of our country.

In 2009, a dedicated group of volunteers came together in hopes of protecting this important cultural and recreational landmark. Now known as the Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA), these volunteers have worked hard to achieve their mission of “preserving and promoting the health of the Catoctin Mountain forest for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

As the primary friends group providing support to Catoctin Mountain Park, CFA focuses on educating both children and adults to be powerful stewards and champions of the environment and this special place. From annual cash scholarships to exemplary environmental science students, to SUCCESS — a program that brings at-risk students to the park each week to learn about trail maintenance, use of tools, and team work — CFA is truly making a difference in their community.

If you want to learn more about the Catoctin Forest Alliance and their many in-park programs, visit their [website](#) or follow them on [Facebook](#). You can also join other CFA members and supporters this spring for their Annual Day of Service. On May 9th, volunteers will spend the day staining the historic cabins, removing barberry or doing trail work. If you would like to help and lend a hand, contact jimsundergill@comcast.net.



Helping to Protect the Forest and Connect Children with Nature



Catoctin Forest Alliance

ANNUAL FUND






Introduction




Founded in 2009, the Catoclin Forest Alliance (CFA) is a non-profit (501c3) organization whose mission is to “preserve and promote the health of the Catoclin Mountain forest for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations”.

CFA is the primary Friend’s Group for Catoclin Mountain Park (CMP) and is also partnered with Cunningham Falls State Park (CFSP).

One of the best ways that CFA preserves the forest is through education and more specifically the education of children, the future stewards of the forest.

-  The **SUCCESS** program brings at risk youth from the Frederick County School system to CMP and CFSP each week during the school year to learn how to use woods tools, perform trail maintenance, learn teamwork and leadership skills.
-  **Seasons 101** brings students to the parks four times a year where they adopt a tree and measure and observe the tree during the whole year, comparing it to their own growth and noting the changes with the seasons. They also learn outdoor skills such as hiking, trail work and camp cooking.
-  The **First Bloom** program brought students from the inner city to CMP to plan, plant and document a wild flower garden in front of the Visitor’s Center (see photo on front cover). The students were part of a nationwide program that included a contest for the best documentation of the experience. The group that came to CMP won first prize.

CFA also works with adults to benefit the forest.

-  Day of Service is a yearly event to maintain and restore areas at Camp Greentop in CMP.
-  **Artist in Residence Program:** Artists from all over the US come to either CMP or CFSP for 1-2 week residencies. During their time in the parks, the artists created art inspired by the forest and donate one piece of art to CFA. A large part of the collection is on display at the CFSP Visitor’s Center.
-  A **Scholarship** is given each year for an Environmental Studies student in Frederick County.

Catoctin Forest Alliance

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Catoctin Forest Alliance

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Thurmont, MD 21788

Phone: Jim Robbins 301-693-9703

Email: catoctinforestalliance1@gmail.com

www.catoctinforall.org



Annual Giving Fund

The Annual Giving Fund is a yearly outreach to help support the programs of CFA. If maintaining the forest is a cause that is close to your heart and you would like to support CFA in this effort, we encourage you to give at the level that is comfortable for you. A donation of \$20 or more will include a membership for the current year. Gifts of \$40 or more will receive increased levels of recognition.

Giving Levels

\$1 - \$19

\$20- \$29 Individual membership level

\$30-\$39 Family membership level

\$40-\$49 Sassafras level

\$50-\$99 Poplar level

\$100-\$249 Sycamore level

\$250-\$499 Chestnut level

\$500-\$999 Maple level

\$1000+ Oak level

Your gift in any amount will be greatly appreciated and it is tax deductible.

Donation Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Amount of donation _____

Please make checks payable to **Catoctin Forest Alliance** and mail to:

CFA

PO Box 411

Thurmont, MD 21788

If you wish to make a donation online, go to

<http://catoctinforall.org/membership/> and click Donate

Many thanks for helping CFA carry out programs in the community that are helping to preserve the forest.

