



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

Newsletter of the CFA

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

The Catoctin Forest Alliance and Catoctin Mountain Park Partner In Camp CATOCTIN Capers

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

Over 1100 fourth grade students from 11 Frederick County Public Schools have become detectives, witnessed plant adaptations and used teamwork to “build” a tree during Camp CATOCTIN (Children ATtaining Objective Critical Thinking Inspired by Nature) field trips at Catoctin Mountain Park this September and October.

While some students perceive it as the wilderness, the convenient location, adequate parking and modern conveniences in Chestnut Picnic Area make it the ideal location for this educational program. A typical field trip begins at approximately 10 a.m. when 2-4 county field trip buses deliver 50-150 4th grade students from a Frederick County elementary school. Upon arrival, visiting teachers meet with the CFA/NPS team, organize students into classroom groups and lead them to the first of 3 activities supporting the Life Science goal of demonstrating an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior and reproduction. (Groups of four or more classes are served by providing duplicate activities taught simultaneously by two teams of volunteer/NPS educators.)

A student workbook entitled “Camp CATOCTIN Capers,” engages students and encourages active participation in:

- Campsite Forensics - Students approach a family campsite and find it surrounded by crime scene tape. They learn that the Messy family had set up camp and left to attend a park activity, without securing their food and equipment. They returned to find the campsite in disarray and covered with animal tracks.

Students are encouraged to use their observational skills to analyze the situation and determine what had transpired while the Messy family was absent. They are guided through the process by NPS Rangers and use a track key provided in the workbook to identify the unseen visitors. The students take field notes, then write a final report back at school. An explanation of how adaptations unique to each animal attracted that animal to the site are an important part of the final report.

- Planted for Survival - Students accompany an educator on a walk of the handicapped accessible Spicebush Nature Trail. The workbook section for this activity includes a table outlining plant adaptations that may be seen on the walk. Students sketch the adaptations in a designated column, introducing the process used in scientific field notation.

- The Tree Factory – Students work as a team to “build” a model of a tree’s internal structures. They absorb water, make food, pump the water to the leaves, then take the food to the roots while the outside circle portraying the bark attempts to protect the tree from outside forces that could damage or kill the tree. After learning about the tree’s internal processes, students go into the wooded area to make bark and leaf rubbings.

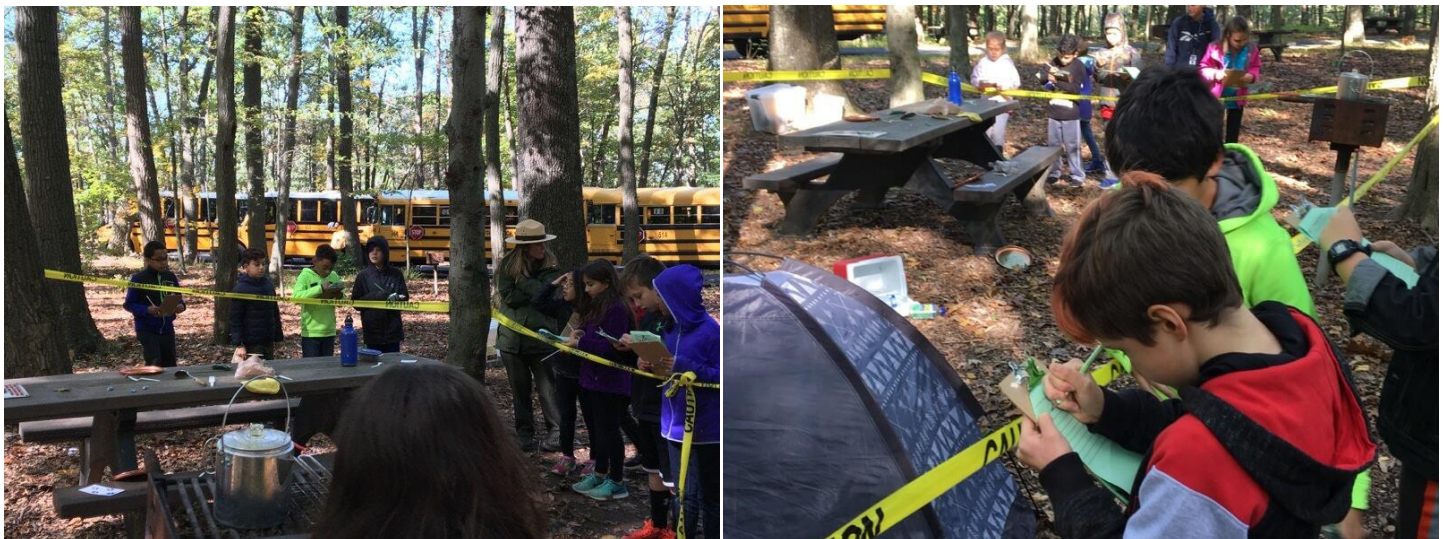
After participating in the 3 rotations, students retire for the long-awaited lunch. As they eat, a Ranger visits each table to issue National Park Service 4th Grade Passes. When presented by the 4th grader, the pass provides free admission to any National Park Service Unit through August 31, 2018. Although not noted on the pass, special consideration by the State of Maryland provides free admission to Maryland State Parks during the same time period.

As buses depart for the ride back to school at 1:00 p.m., waves and smiles are the norm. One teacher’s candid remark has been our greatest compliment, “It was good last year, and even better this year. We will be back again.”

The Camp CATOCTIN Capers were made possible by a National Park Foundation Every Kid in a Park Transportation grant. Funds from this grant issued to Catoctin Mountain Park and administered by the Catoctin Forest Alliance pays field trip buses. The entire field trip is provided without cost to parents or schools.

Lesson plan and teaching material concepts were developed by Valley Elementary Teacher Mary Cooley and CFA Program Director Debra Mills. Ms. Cooley volunteered her perspective as a participating teacher and expertise as a member of the FCPS curriculum development team to suggest appropriate activities and approaches for student engagement. Lesson plans for the Campsite Forensics and the crime scene were developed by the Catoctin Mountain Park Interpretive Ranger Staff. CFA member Shelley Miller provided essential support as a liaison between the CFA and FCPS Staff and as an ambassador for the program.

The Catoctin Forest Alliance educational team consists of Catoctin Mountain Park Interpretive Rangers and a special group of retired folks volunteering their time and expertise to educate today’s youth and connect them to the outdoors.



Student detectives taking notes at the campsite “crime scene.”



The alien “Katrinka” bug invades the 4th grade tree.



Students make bark and leaf rubbings as part of the “Tree Factory” activity.



Young scientists learn how plants adapt to survive in a real world setting on the Spicebush Nature Trail



A Note from our President, Jim Robbins

Just when I think that things are slowing down, things pick up. We have a strong group that is working on fund-raising for the coming year and you will be hearing more from this group in the very near future. Shelley Miller, Debbie Mills and Mel Poole can always use input from members and people willing to help.

We received another grant from the National Park Foundation for Every Kid in the Park (EKIP) program. This program “brought” over 1,100 fourth graders into the Catoctin Mountain Park this year and we hope to be as successful and improve the program this coming year. We are very fortunate to have great volunteers and Park personnel help with this program. If you would like to help with this program please contact Debbie Mills (301-748-7882) or Peggie Gaul (301-663-9388) and they will be get you involved.

The Tourism Council of Frederick County, Inc. awarded us, Catoctin Forest Alliance, Inc. (CFA), a grant to bring a bus of Amish here in November, 2017. The group will arrive November 17 and depart November 19. They will be doing some work in the Greentop area on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning and all members are welcome to come and enjoy in the activities and visit with our friends from the Nappanee, Indiana area. We will be having a dinner at Greentop Saturday night and if you would like to attend please contact Jim Robbins (301-693-9703) to make arrangements.

With the success of this program within the Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program (IAASP), I was asked by another group of IAASP from southern Indiana to see if I could find a location for them to have a similar experience. With the help of the National Park Service we have connected them with Cumberland Gap Historical Park in Middlesboro, KY and they will be starting work on the Hensley Settlement this spring. It has been a great honor to work with these two groups of service devoted people.

We have completed another successful year of our Artist in Residence program and will be starting our application process for next year within the next couple of weeks. This has been a great experience for the artists as well as CFA and we look forward to receiving the applications for 2018. Our art work can be seen at the Thurmont First Visitor Center in Thurmont and at the Lewis House in Catoctin Mountain Park. All the art work is for sale. Please contact Linda Sundergill (898-7549) or Jim Robbins (301-693-9703) if you are interested in seeing or purchasing some of the art.



The SUCCESS program has seven youth this year and is off to a strong start. We have completed the clearing of a new trail from the Furnace to the new Iron Furnace Museum and beyond (see photos right and left). We are waiting for two bridges to be installed and then we will be placing ground cloth and mulch to complete the trail. We are currently splitting wood

for the campsites at Catoctin Mountain Park and will start CPR and First Aid training in the near future.



If you would like to be part of the Catoctin Forest Alliance, Inc. please contact one of the above members or visit our website www.catoctinforestalliance.org.

CFA Calendar 2017-18

November 15-19	Amish at Catoctin Mountain Park
December 2	Gift Wrapping Fundraiser at Barnes and Noble
December 13	Christmas Open House 4-8pm at Lewis property
December 14	Gift Wrapping Fundraiser at Barnes and Noble
December 18	Gift Wrapping Fundraiser at Barnes and Noble
December 20	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
2018	
Feb. 26- March 23	Amish at Catoctin Mountain Park
February 28	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
April 25	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
May 6-19	Spring Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park
June 27	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
August 22	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
September 9-22	Fall Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park
October 24	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
December 19	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property

Happenings In Catoctin Mountain Park (CMP) By Peggie Gaul, CMP Ranger

Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) 4th grade programs are going well. By the end of October park staff, CFA and volunteers will have hosted approximately 900 students with a curriculum-based, outdoor learning experience. It's a great opportunity for exposing children to the outdoors and to the national park. Every student leaves with their own EKIP park pass that will admit the child and family to other parks throughout the country and state for free.

The park staff is partnering with Bridging the Watershed/Alice Ferguson Foundation this fall to facilitate three middle and high school education programs that focus on water quality and exotic invasive species.

The local history class from Walkersville High School will visit the park in November to learn about the role of Catoctin Mountain during the depression and the creation of the park. The students will then go to Catoctin Iron Furnace for a visit.

Fall Color Walks will be offered every Saturday and Sunday throughout the month of October. Times, dates and locations are available on the park website: <https://www.nps.gov/cato/planyourvisit/programs.htm>

Orienteering classes will be offered on weekends in November. The classes are free but reservations are required. Dates and additional information is available on the website: <https://www.nps.gov/cato/planyourvisit/programs.htm>

The park now has four pairs of Enchroma color correction eyeglasses that filter colors in a way that allows individuals with red or green colorblindness to see those color hues. Eyeglasses are available for loan from the visitor center.

The park sales area now sells paintings by local artist Selia Sealey. Please stop by to take a look.

The park is in the final stage of planning for new visitor center exhibits. Hopefully fabrication and installation of the exhibits will take place over the next few years.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Catoctin Mountain Park
6602 Foxville Road
Thurmont, MD 21788

(301) 663-9330 phone
(301) 271-2764 fax
www.nps.gov/cato

Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center to close November 15-17, 2017

THURMONT, Md. – Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center will be temporarily closed November 15-17, 2017 while the National Park Service replaces insulation in public areas of the building. The building will be thoroughly cleaned before it reopens at 9 a.m. Saturday, November 18.

During the closure, public restrooms and a contact station will be available at park headquarters. The headquarters phone number is 301-663-9330, and the street address is 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont MD 21788. Public restrooms are also available at the Hog Rock Parking Area and at the Chestnut Picnic Area. Trail maps will be available at trailheads throughout the park and at park headquarters.

For additional information please contact the visitor center at 301-663-9388.

Catoctin Mountain Park offers color enhancement eyeglasses to serve visitors with colorblindness

THURMONT, Md. – With the forest of Catoctin Mountain Park starting to show its vibrant and rich colors of the fall season, Catoctin Mountain Park is pleased to announce that it has four pairs of Enchroma™ color correction eyeglasses available for loan. These specialized color correction eyeglasses filter colors in a way that allows an individual who has red or green color weakness or red or green colorblindness to see those colors. Eyeglasses will be loaned to visitors for day use during visitor center operating hours, 9-5 daily. Eyeglasses are available in adult and children's sizes. The success of color correction varies from person to person.

For more information on the Enchroma™ eyeglasses and daily loan procedures, please contact the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center at 301-663-9388.

—NPS—

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

Holiday Gift Wrapping Fundraiser for CFA by Shelley Miller, Fundraising Chairman

The Catoclin Forest Alliance (CFA) will serve at the Frederick **Barnes & Noble gift wrapping** table during the following times:



- **Saturday Dec. 2** **5 pm - 9 pm or 10 pm (tbd)**
- **Thursday Dec. 14** **8 am or 9 am (tbd) – 4 pm**
- **Monday Dec. 18** **4 pm – 9 pm or 10 pm (tbd)**

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 those times 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 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!



Another upcoming fundraiser event- 2018 Paint Night with Rebecca Pearl! Tickets (making a wonderful holiday gift!) will be available soon. Stay tuned!

Artist in Residence

Our Fall Artist in Residence, Merrill Comeau, was a resident in Catoctin Mountain Park, Cabin 16 from September 10-23, 2017. Merrill is from Concord, MA and specializes in 2-dimensional art of mixed medium. She uses water color, acrylic, fabric and paper to create beautiful artwork. She was an interior designer for many years before deciding to devote career to art. While in residence, Merrill met the public by having an interactive mural painting. She also held an in-service for the park employees to describe and demonstrate Visual Thinking Strategies. The technique allows interactive interpretation of material (art, nature, etc.) with guidance by a leader. This technique brings out a wide range of ideas and welcomes input for everyone in attendance.



Mural creation at CMP Visitor's Center



Merrill Comeau holding a piece of her fabric art with preliminary mural pieces in background

"Ghost Leaves" Donated artwork from Merrill Comeau to CFA

It is Time to 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. Current members, please send in your renewal by December 31, 2017.

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 cost is \$20 per person or \$30 per couple for a membership that will last through December 2018.

**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