



The Catoctin Forest Alliance

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 8 No. 2 April 2018

Bulletin

[**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

CFA Loses Founding Member and Beloved Mentor

Elizabeth Prongas died peacefully at home on April 12, 2018 at the age of 91. She was born in New York where she and her sister, Grace, lived until Elizabeth was about 6 years old and her father died. Her English mother then moved back to England with her two daughters and lived in an area of the New Forest. Elizabeth loved being outdoors in the New Forest and cherished the plants and creatures alike. How fitting that years later Elizabeth started the New Forest Society in homage to her childhood home and her love of the outdoors.



Elizabeth 2008

The New Forest Society was incorporated in 2000 with a dedication to protect and restore natural resources that impact the watershed of northern Frederick County. The organization with Elizabeth's leadership gave thousands of dollars to students for environmental study. They distributed thousands of native tree and shrub seedlings to citizens of the county and conducted environmental education programs in local schools.

In 2008 Elizabeth heard about Mike West who was contacting all local land owners in an effort to gain support for the gypsy moth eradication program. Elizabeth called Mike and an alliance and a friendship were born. Elizabeth, then 81 years old, was looking for a way to extend the legacy of the New Forest Society to younger leadership. Thus the Catoctin Forest

Alliance (CFA) was born from the core of the New Forest Society (NFS). The NFS provided funding, members and expertise to the new organization that became a Friends Group for both Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park.

Elizabeth was on the CFA Board from its inception. She worked with Mel Poole and Holly Rife to start the CFA Artist in Residence Program that is now in its eighth year. She was a very effective recruiter for CFA, a generous donor and a passionate advocate for the preservation of the forest. She will be greatly missed but never forgotten. As Mel Poole said, "Her ripples will continue to radiate through the pond".

In Memory of Elizabeth

- **Linda Sundergill:** Elizabeth was a dear friend, a mentor, and my art teacher. She taught me a great deal about art, life and caring. I am blessed that she was part of my life and am truly missing her.
- **Jim Robbins:** I will miss our "conversations", your smile, your joy for life, the tea and that English humor.

- **Jim Sundergill:** I bet she'll now be helping to paint the sunrises and sunsets that we see.
- **Shelley Miller:** I will always be thankful for the privilege of knowing Elizabeth and the positive impact she had on my students and me. I will embrace Linda Sundergill's image of Elizabeth as 'an angel in heaven with a watercolor brush in her hand and a beautiful smile on her face'...and will honor her memory in my heart always.
- **Don Frame:** Elizabeth was an uplifting force. She always had an encouraging word to say. For a new artist, a Godsend.
- **Debbie Mills:** Elizabeth was a true steward of the environment. Her input was instrumental to projects that helped private landowners protect their woods from gypsy moth devastation, introduced art to the parks, and allowed children to learn the joys of nature. We will miss her bright smile, her nurturing ways and impeccable sense of fashion.
- **Michael West:** Elizabeth was probably the sweetest lady I have ever met. We hit it off from the first time we spoke by phone. Elizabeth had a profound impact on my life and the way I view our natural world. One of the finest moments in the 5 years I led our organization was the time we pulled together 225 environmental educators, politicians, private landowners for the Meeting on the Mountain IV (MoM IV). We presented Elizabeth with what in my mind's eye was a Lifetime Achievement Award. It was our way of honoring her selfless commitment to forestry, outdoor education, art and people. I think we are all better for Elizabeth Prongas having touched our lives.
- **Tyson Rose** ((a recently retired ten-year member of the Frederick County Forestry Board) I first met Elizabeth Prongas during the founding of the Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA). Along with Mike West becoming the first president of CFA, I became the first vice-president. Our early concerns included creating a CFA mission statement. I remember the protracted discussions over several meetings to establish the mission statement. Elizabeth was integral to the final wording needed to capture the interests of all the early founding members. I also recollect that one of the early CFA public events was supported by Elizabeth. A suggestion was made to invite Exec. Director, Maura McCarthy, of the Wissahickon Park in Philadelphia. (Friends of the Wissahickon). Sam Castleman at Thorpewood offered the facility and Maura's presentation was well received by attendees. CFA was off to a good start. From the very beginning Elizabeth was the grand lady of the CFA and a strong advocate to the organization!
- **Bob Rock:** Elizabeth was very special; one cannot help but feel that knowing her was a very special privilege.

Arrangements for Elizabeth's Celebration of Life are not yet complete



Elizabeth speaking at a CFA event in 2012

Photo by Don Frame



Elizabeth 2015 in her beautiful English garden

A Note from Our President-Jim Robbins

Spring is here! I might have to think about that because as I type this, it is snowing. We, at Catoctin Forest Alliance, have a great many items that we have been doing which you can read in this newsletter. Read the articles and get involved in helping us become even greater. The Amish were here during the month of March (see article by Debbie Mills), our speaker series, at the Thurmont library, began last month with a talk on mushrooms (see article by Mel Poole on page 7), our first Artist in Residence of the season will be arriving in May and SUCCESS is doing great work in the Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain Park.

Kathy Byrne is doing an outstanding job as treasurer. Linda Sundergill is great at membership, Artist in Residence and as our newsletter editor. Debbie Mills does a great job with the programs for youth and project details. Shelley Miller is great with fundraising and getting our name out into the public. Mel Poole organizes our speaker series and Bob Rock does a great job taking our minutes. The only name missing from this list of names is yours. Get involved with one of our/your programs.

SUCCESS

The youth have been working on the stable, at Greentop, clearing fence lines, painting the store at Hough, helping with maple syrup, taking picnic tables apart and building new ones, splitting wood for the parks and much more. See the photos and enjoy. Seven great youth and one super aid from the school.





CFA Calendar 2018

April

- 21 Green Neighbor Event at Thurmont Library 10am to 2pm
 25 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
 26 Catoctin Forest Alliance Speaker Series at the Thurmont Library, 76 East Moser Road, Thurmont, MD.
Up the Creek: Brook Trout in the streams of Catoctin Mountain. National Park Service Biologist Lindsey Donaldson will discuss the current status of native brook trout in area streams.

May

- Throughout the month – Camp CATOCTIN Capers Field Trips. Contact Debbie Mills at dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com to learn more about volunteering to help with the field trips or to reserve a field trip date for a 4th grade class.
- 12 Green Neighbor Event at Baker Park, see page 13
 6-19 Spring Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park: James Schlett, photographer from Virginia
 24 Catoctin Forest Alliance Speaker Series at the Thurmont Library 76 East Moser Road, Thurmont, MD *Forged in Fire: The Art of Knife Making.* Local bladesmith Erin Aylor will demonstrate his artistic endeavors in metal and other media and discuss his television appearance on the History Channel.

June

- 25-29 Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp. Contact Debbie Mills at dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com for further information.
- 27 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
 28 *150 Years of Resource Protection:* Maryland's Natural Resources Police Historian Greg Bartles of the Maryland Conservation Agency Museum will discuss the history of the National Resources Police back to their beginning as the Oyster Police.

July

- 26 *What Kind of Tree is That?* Tree Identification for Beginners Naturalist Troy Schylenburg of Cunningham Falls State Park will show beginners how to identify local tree species

August

- 22 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
 23 *Wildlife in Our Neighborhood:* Scales and Tales Maryland Park Service Naturalist Mollie Kemp will introduce some of our local wildlife and their needs to participants.

September

- 9-22 Fall Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park, Carlos Reyes, poet from Oregon
 22 National Public Lands Day

October

- 24 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property

December

- 19 CFA General Meeting and Christmas Party 4pm at the Lewis property

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 from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Be sure to call ahead for the latest information on upcoming programs. 301-271-7574.

April 21

Fishing Rodeo

Gambrill State Park

Anglers 15 and under are invited to fish in the pond at Gambrill State Park. All participants must be accompanied by an adult and bring their own fishing tackle and bait. Limited to the first 35 registered participants. Call 301-293-4170 or email alicia.norris@maryland.gov to reserve your space. Free.

May 5 & 6

Spring in the Village, Art at the Furnace

Cunningham Falls State Park

Historic Catoctin Iron Furnace

Celebrate spring in the Historic Catoctin Iron Furnace. Enjoy a fun atmosphere with amusements for all. Art, wine garden, Sarah's garden plant sale, food, music, and children's activities throughout the historic sites of the village. Parking at Cunningham Falls State Park Manor Area. Shuttle Provided. Free.

June 2

National Trails Day

Cunningham Falls State Park

If you enjoy hiking and your public lands, this is the day to give back to the trails you love. Join Rangers for a day of trail work. You will work hard, get dirty, and have fun while doing it. Work can be strenuous. Sturdy boots or shoes, work gloves, and water are recommended. Pre-register by calling 301-271-7574. Free.

September 29

Public Lands Day

Gambrill State Park

Give back to your public lands by joining a small crew for an afternoon of cleanup and beautification projects at Gambrill State Park. Sturdy boots or shoes, work gloves, and water are recommended. Pre-register by calling 301-293-4170. Free.

October 7

Autumn Tea at the Tea Room

Gambrill State Park

Tea Room

Enjoy a traditional tea service and the beautiful fall scenery at one of Frederick's oldest gathering places. For information and to reserve your seat, visit www.cunninghamgambrill.org.

October 20

Spirits of the Furnace

Cunningham Falls State Park

Historic Catoctin Iron Furnace

Step back in time and experience a guided tour through the historic village with a seasonal twist. Spirits of the Furnace will tell stories based on local lore and historical events. Reservations and tickets required. For more information, visit www.catoctinfurnace.org.

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.

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

Legislative Highlights

Mel Poole, President, Friends of Maryland State Parks

Maryland State Parks gained five new units: Bohemia River in Cecil County, Belt Woods in Prince Georges County, Wolf Den Run and Sang Run in Garrett County, and Fort Tonoloway in Washington County.

Maryland State Parks also received 7 new permanent positions (PINs) to support the 5 newly established parks. The legislative session came to successful end for Maryland State Parks when an additional \$6M was added to the FY2019 Capital Budget for a grand total of \$13M.

CFA Speaker Series Off to a Good Start



National Park Biologist, Becky Loncosky presented a very interesting and informative talk about wild mushrooms on March 22 as part of the CFA Preservation Programs at the Thurmont Library.

Catoctin Forest Alliance Announces Preservation Programs at the Thurmont Library for Spring and Summer 2018



The Catoctin Forest Alliance is pleased to present the following speakers and programs for Spring 2018.

All programs start at 7:00 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Thurmont, MD Library. All programs are free and open to the public.

April 26: *Up the Creek: Brook Trout in the streams of Catoctin Mountain.*

National Park Service Biologist Lindsey Donaldson will discuss the current status of native brook trout in area streams.

May 24: *Forged in Fire: The Art of Knife Making*

Local bladesmith Erin Aylor will demonstrate his artistic endeavors in metal and other media and discuss his television appearance on the History Channel.

June 28: *150 Years of Resource Protection: Maryland's Natural Resources Police*

Historian Greg Bartles of the Maryland Conservation Agency Museum will discuss the history of the National Resources Police back to their beginning as the Oyster Police.

July 26: *What Kind of Tree is That? Tree Identification for Beginners*

Naturalist Troy Schylenburg of Cunningham Falls State Park will show beginners how to identify local tree species.

August 23: *Wildlife in Our Neighborhood: Scales and Tales*

Maryland Park Service Naturalist Mollie Kemp will introduce some of our local wildlife and their needs to participants.

Contacts:

Thurmont Library 76 East Moser Road Thurmont, MD 21788. Telephone: (301) 600-7200

Catoctin Forest Alliance P.O. Box 411 Thurmont, MD 21788 www.catoctinforestalliance.org

Preserving & promoting the health of the Catoctin Mountain forest for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Upcoming Programs at Catoctin Mountain Park



Submitted by Peggie Gaul, Acting Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services

April 21 Wildflower Hike, at 1 pm, Browns Farm Trail (meet at the Owens Creek Picnic Area), in Catoctin Mountain Park. The hike will be led by Park Biologist Becky Loncosky.

April 26 "Up the Creek: Brook Trout in the Streams of Catoctin Mountain" presented at the Thurmont Library, 7-9 pm. National Park Service Biologist Lindsey Donaldson discusses current status of native brook trout in area streams. This Preservation Program is being presented as a partnership between The Catoctin Forest Alliance and the Thurmont Regional Library.

May 2, June 1 & 21, July 2 & 6 Story Time and Discovery Hike at Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center. This is in collaboration with the Thurmont Library. Call the Visitor Center 301-663-9388 or Thurmont Library for times.

May 8 Catoctin Mountain Park History, 7-8:30 pm. Daryl Despres, volunteer with the National Park Service, will be giving a presentation on the history of Catoctin Mountain Park at the Smithsburg Library. Call to reserve a seat or sign up online.

Memorial Day - Labor Day - Ranger programs at Owens Creek Campground. Check the park website: www.nps.gov/cato for program times and topics.

Volunteer Projects:

- March - Amish volunteers from Nappanee, Indiana spent the month of March volunteering in the park. They built 200 wooden replacement windows and installed several of them at Camp Greentop. They also renovated the restroom in the cook's cabin and replaced "modern" paneling with wood paneling in Good Luck Lodge.
- 4/7-8 Local Boy Scout Troop 270 spruced up the Poplar Grove Youth Camping Area, making it ready for the busy season.
- 4/28-29 The local Order of the Arrow Chapter will be sprucing up the Owens Creek Campground, splitting and stacking firewood, and cleaning up Camp Misty Mount during the weekend of April 28-29.
- 4/28 The Mid-Atlantic Climbers will assist the park in removing graffiti from Wolf Rock.

Eastern National Sales Area at the Visitor Center - New items are arriving in our Eastern National Sales Area at the Visitor Center every day. We have new T-shirts and hoodies, decals, stoneware mugs, puzzles, postcards, TRACK Trail plush toys and backpacks, a new Junior Ranger Passport Book with stamp, and more. These items are currently in the sales area or will be soon.

Sister Park - Catoctin Mountain Park will enter into a Sister-Park arrangement with Nationalpark Scharzwald in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. During the week of April 16, representatives from the national park in Germany will visit Catoctin to tour and learn about our park. During their visit Catoctin staff also will learn about Nationalpark Scharzwald. Representatives from both parks will formalize the arrangement with a ceremonial signing.



If February is the Shortest Month, Why does March Go So Fast?

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

Isn't it amazing how time drags on short winter days? Suddenly, it's Spring, days are longer, but seem to pick up speed. While this Winter held on for an encore, March was a mere blur for CFA and the 2018 Indiana Anabaptist Amish Service Program *(IAASP) work crew from Nappanee, Indiana.

Eight young men and two married couples boarded the train in Indiana on Sunday evening, March 4, arriving in Harpers Ferry slightly after noon on Monday, March 5. After settling in Quarters 7 and 8 in Camp Round Meadow, the group joined CFA members and Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park employees for the traditional welcome dinner. The simple but hearty meal is usually easy to prepare, but a twist, courtesy of Mother Nature made this year's preparations worthy of a TV reality show.

A weekend wind storm caused a deceptive power outage in Round Meadow, disabling one leg of the three phase power system. It appeared that most electrical devices were working fine, with the exception of Dining Hall ovens that pretended to heat, but remained lukewarm. A late afternoon transport that took half-done roasts to Quarters 7 for a quick bake saved the meal, and the cooks' reputations.

The eager crew began working early Tuesday morning. This year's projects included installing nearly 100 of the 200 window screens the group manufactured for Camp Greentop cabins, removing interior walls in Good Luck Lodge and sanding and refinishing the floors in that building. The group installed a new bathroom and sanded and refinished floors in the Camp Greentop Cook's Cabin. Unfortunately, Mother Nature's next surprise, a substantial winter-like storm that blanketed Frederick County on March 20 and 21, the first and second days of spring halted work for over a day or even more would have been accomplished.

While work is important, opportunities to explore the local area make the month at Catoctin a trip of lifetime for the Indiana natives. The IAASP group explored Catoctin's hiking trails at every opportunity. CFA and NPS volunteers Katrinka Westendorf and Jim Robbins chauffeured the group to Gettysburg, Antietam, the Dulles Air and Space Museum, the CFA Speaker Series at the Thurmont Library, local restaurants and on shopping excursions. Volunteer blacksmiths Erin Aylor and Don Cornell introduced the group to the Catoctin Blacksmith Shop forge and assisted crew members who took a swing at the anvil to make steel hooks and leaves.

A tour of the National Conservation Training Center in Sheperdstown, WV followed by dinner and a recognition ceremony closed the whirlwind month. The IAASP group boarded the train west on Good Friday, March 30 taking their memories and leaving Camp Greentop. This year's work crew donated 1260 hours restoring Camp Greentop. The average Facility Condition Index Score for Camp Greentop buildings which was 35 when the IAASP began working at Greentop 3 years ago is now 90. (the scale is 1-100). The in-kind value of the group's service exceeds \$30,000 for 2018 alone.

CFA extends a collective thanks to the IAASP committee, the work crews, NPS staff and CFA and NPS volunteers who make it possible to accomplish this annual project.

* Through an agreement with the Selective Service, the Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program allows Amish men ages 18-24 to substitute volunteer community service as an alternative to military service.

SPRING IN THE VILLAGE ART AT THE FURNACE

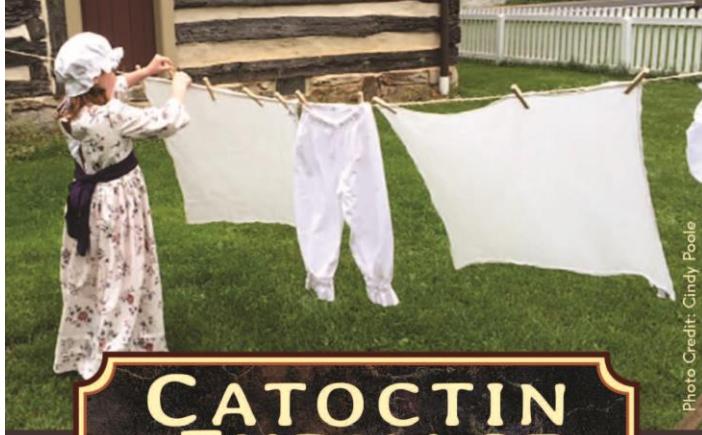


Photo Credit: Cindy Poole

CATOCTIN FURNACE

SATURDAY, MAY 5 • 10AM–5PM
SUNDAY, MAY 6 • 12–5PM

FREE ADMISSION

Join us for a family-focused, heritage tourism event set against the backdrop of the historic structures and pristine hills of Catoctin Furnace. Enjoy crafts, demonstrations, music, children's activities, historic foods, and more!



MILICENT SPARKS
as Harriet Tubman

Visit will feature an in-character question and answer session

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- A Special Visit from Harriet Tubman & Presentation from the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program Manager Diane Miller
1pm, Harriet Chapel

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

- Fredericktown Fife and Drum Corps
12:30–2pm, The Furnace Green
- Landless Theater Performance of musical numbers from 1776
2:30pm & 3:30pm, The Casting Shed

Featuring:

- Historic craft demonstrations
- Blacksmithing and ironworking demonstrations
- Children's activities including handkerchief doll making, clothes washing, and colonial games
- Bluegrass Jam
- Artisan craft sales
- Historic/ traditional Foods
- Beer and wine garden with local wines and beers
- Tours of the Village and updates on archaeological and DNA Findings
- Baked goods
- Scales and Tales—mysterious owls and majestic hawks!
- Activities with Frederick County Public Libraries

For more information about artisans and an up-to-date schedule of events visit www.catoctinfurnace.org or contact 443-629-8661.



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Fest: Oct. 12 & 13 • Spirits of the Furnace: Oct. 20
Traditional Village Christmas: Dec. 1



THIS EVENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROSITY OF





FREDERICK
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES

spring events at FCPL

happening March - May 2018

All Ages

DISCOVER AND EXPLORE: PURIM

Learn what Purim means around the world in partnership with Congregation Or Chadash. Live performances and activities for the whole family!

Urbana Sunday, Mar. 18; 2 p.m.

SPRING IN THE VILLAGE/ART AT THE FURNACE

Family-friendly festival at Historic Catoctin Furnace, 12525 Catoctin Furnace Road, Thurmont.

Offsite Saturday, May 5; 10 a.m., and Sunday, May 6; 12 p.m.

Adult

RAVEN ROCK: THE STORY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S SECRET PLAN TO SAVE ITSELF—WHILE THE REST OF US DIE

Author Garrett Graff shares information about the Raven Rock hidden bunker as well as other sites throughout the country. Book signing included. Books will be for sale courtesy of Curious Iguana.

Thurmont Thursday, Apr. 19; 7 p.m.

THE PUNK SINGER DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION

Join FCC professor Christine Rai for the documentary The Punk Singer (NR) followed by discussion on Kathleen Hanna and Riot Grrrl's impact.

C. Burr Artz Thursday, Mar. 1; 6:30 p.m.

BACKYARD CHICKEN FARMING

Learn all the ins and outs of backyard chicken farming with our educator Dale Johnson from the University of Maryland Extension.

Walkersville Saturday, May 5; 11 a.m.

Visit us for our full list of spring events.

fcpl.org



@FredCoLibrary
Explore. Invent. Transform.

spring events at FCPL

happening March - May 2018

Children's

HISTORIAS: STORYTIME IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH (AGES 3-5)

C. Burr Artz Thursday, Mar. 22; 1:30 p.m.

Middletown Thursday, Mar. 22; 10:30 a.m.

Point of Rocks Tuesday, Apr. 17; 11 a.m.

Urbana Thursdays, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, and May 10; 1:30 p.m.

STEM: ARCHITECTURE (GRADES K-5)

Brunswick Thursdays, Mar. 22, 29, and Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26; 2 p.m.

MAKE YOUR OWN GLOW IN THE DARK BOUNCY BALLS (AGES 4-12)

Middletown Tuesday, Apr. 10; 6:30 p.m.

EXPLORATION STATION (AGES 0-18)

Presented by Mount St. Mary's University students.

Emmitsburg Saturday, Apr. 14; 10 a.m.

Thurmont Saturday, Apr. 14; 10 a.m.

INNOVATION: GENETIC ENGINEERING WITH THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC (GRADES 3-5) *

Work with a team to determine the best crop for your community, as well as how to enhance it with gene cloning.

Walkersville Wednesday, May 23; 4 p.m.

Teen

STAR WARS DROID INVENTOR (GRADES 6-12)

Urbana Thursday, Mar. 8; 3:30 p.m.

TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT JOB FAIR (AGES 14-21)

Connect with employers. Bring a resume and come dressed to impress.

Brunswick Saturday, Apr. 7; 1:00 p.m.

C. Burr Artz Saturday, Mar. 24; 2 p.m.

Walkersville Saturday, Mar. 17; 1 p.m.

CIRCUITS 101 (GRADES 6-12) *

Explore basic circuits through light-up creations.

Thurmont Wednesday, Apr. 18, and Thursday, Apr. 19; 1 p.m.

DIY GLOW IN THE DARK BOUNCY BALLS (GRADES 6-12)

Middletown Tuesday, Apr. 24; 3:30 p.m.

SHERLOCK HOLMES ESCAPE ROOM (GRADES 6-12)

Walkersville Tuesday, May 22; 4 p.m.

* Registration Required

fcpl.org



@FredCoLibrary
Explore. Invent. Transform.



FREDERICK
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Catoctin Mountain Park
6602 Foxville Road
Thurmont, MD 21788

(301) 663-9388 phone
(301) 271-2764 fax
www.nps.gov/cato

Catoctin Mountain Park News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2018

Contact: Becky Loncosky (301) 416-0536, Becky_Loncosky@nps.gov

Catoctin Mountain Park announces 2018 Youth Conservation Corps Program

THURMONT, Md. - The National Park Service is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2018 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program at Catoctin Mountain Park. This is an exciting opportunity for high school students to spend the summer doing meaningful work in a National Park. The YCC program is scheduled to last for eight weeks beginning on June 18, 2018 and ending on August 10, 2018.

The program is open to teens 15 through 18 years of age. All applicants who meet the eligibility requirements listed on the application will be considered. The position will require daily outdoor labor, working in heat, and using a variety of hand tools. The work projects include trail maintenance and construction, exotic plant control and removal, monitoring of rare plant populations, gypsy moth monitoring, painting and rehabilitation projects. Enrollees will be selected through a random drawing. Previous enrollees may only be considered in the event that an insufficient number of new applications are received. The rate of pay will be \$9.25 per hour and increase to \$10.10 per hour after July 1, 2018, to match the state minimum wage in Maryland.

Applications may be obtained at the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center at 14707 Park Central Road, Thurmont, MD 21788, or by contacting Becky Loncosky at Becky_Loncosky@nps.gov.

Completed applications may be emailed to Becky_Loncosky@nps.gov or mailed to Becky Loncosky, Catoctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, MD 21788. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2018. If you have questions concerning this program, please contact Ms. Loncosky by email or at (301) 416-0536M.

-NPS-

Catoctin Mountain Park is one of 417 national parks cared for by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Correspondence should be addressed to: Superintendent, Catoctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, MD 21788. General information can be obtained through the park website at www.nps.gov or by calling the Visitor Center at (301) 663-9388.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Green Neighbor Events

Please join CFA, tell your green neighbors, and invite your friends for the following green neighbor events this spring!!



The first event is in Thurmont on April 21 at the Thurmont Library 10am-2pm.

The second one is in Frederick at on May 12 at Culler Lake in Baker Park (West 2nd Street & College Terrace), Frederick MD.

Green Neighbor Festival

Saturday May 12, 2018

10 am – 4 PM

The Catoctin Forest Alliance will participate for the first time in this event. The goal of the event is to promote sustainable living practices in Frederick County. The day's activities and entertainment will include:

- live acoustic music sponsored and coordinated by Frederick Acoustic Music Enterprise (FAME),
- a sustainability bike-ride around Frederick hosted by The City of Frederick,
- local “green” and environmentally sustainable-minded vendors (**including The Catoctin Forest Alliance!!** 😊)
- collection of hard-to-recycle items by our vendors (see the list of accepted items on the green neighbor web site at <http://ccws.hood.edu/education/outreach/green-neighbor-festival/list-of-special-recycling-items-for-green-neighbor-festival-2018/>)
- family-friendly activity area hosted by Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources (OSER),
- Green Neighbor Environmental Tips on sustainable living to conserve natural resources and save money!
- electric & hybrid vehicle displays
- stream cleanup,
- bluegill fish release,
- food truck area
- environmental film screening in the evening at Hood College and more.

The festival will be situated around Culler Lake, in Baker Park, Frederick, MD, close to the Hood College campus, and will occur from 10 am – 4 pm.

We invite any CFA member who would like to participate to contact Shelley at Shellbio@aol.com or call/text her at 301-471-7434 (c). The CFA booth activities will (hopefully) include having recycled backpacks (that CFA's own Debbie Mills makes out of recycled feed sacks! Way to go Debbie!!) available for a \$5 donation. We plan to have a table set up for decorating/personalizing the backpacks. 😊 CFA also has Bird Activity Books to distribute to participants of the festival free of charge. Some of those activities will also be occurring at the activities table. We welcome your input ahead of time and your participation anytime (including at the event). Please feel free to mention additional ideas to either Shelley Miller (Shellbio@aol.com) or Debbie Mills debbiemills11770@gmail.com. We sincerely hope you will consider joining us for all of the exciting upcoming CFA events!!

Green Neighbor Festival Evening Film Announced

Saturday May 12, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Hood College Hodson Auditorium in the Rosenstock Hall

Wasted! The Story of Food Waste aims to change the way people buy, cook, recycle, and eat food. Through the eyes of chef-heroes like Bourdain, Dan Barber, Mario Batali, Massimo Bottura, and Danny Bowien, audiences will see how the world's most influential chefs make the most of every kind of food, transforming what most people consider scraps into incredible dishes that create a more secure food system. Wasted! exposes the criminality of food waste and how it's directly contributing to climate change and shows us how each of us can make small changes – all of them delicious – to solve one of the greatest problems of the 21st century.

Catoctin Mountain Park Volunteer Newsletter

Contact Info: Phone- (301)-663-9389 Lorne: lorne_haines@partner.nps.gov

Ron: ron_harvey@nps.gov



Scheduled Service Events

Saturday April 21st (National Park Week Service Day 10:00 am – ~2:00 pm)

We are looking for volunteers to join us the day before Earth Day to help prepare our historic CCC and WPA era cabins for the season. Having the Greentop and Misty Mount cabins cleared of leaves helps preserve their unique historic construction by keeping away moisture and discouraging critters from living underneath them. We plan on working with the Frederick and Germantown Targets as well as the Catoctin Forest Alliance to complete this task.

If you are interested in joining us ***please sign up using the doodle poll link below*** or let either Ron or Lorne know, so we can plan accordingly. If you have any supplies, such as leaf blowers or rakes please feel free to bring them along. <https://doodle.com/poll/fx8imcivyr7fbs8f>

Saturday April 28th (Order of the Arrow Ordeal 7:45 am – 3:30pm)

We need volunteers to assist in leading and working with groups for the all day Order of the Arrow service event. Basically we are looking to increase our adult presence in each of the work groups. Scouts will be working to assist us in getting our campsites ready for the season. In addition to the scouts helping us out, this event also acts as a way for scouts to become members of scouting's honor society.

Projects will be stationed at Owens Creek, Misty Mount, the Ball field, and the Firewood Cache. We are looking for volunteers to assist and provide guidance to the scouts with clearing and chipping tent pads, raising fire rings, splitting and stacking firewood, and clearing leaves from underneath cabins. The day will start at Greentop with a safety briefing at 7:45 am.

If you are interested in assisting and providing guidance to a group of Scouts for all or part of the day, please sign up on the doodle poll below or let either Ron or Lorne know.

<https://doodle.com/poll/pgtupnqkpw3eyp78>



Upcoming Opportunities

Tent Pad Measuring (Ongoing)

Almost all the tent pads in the Owens Creek camping area need to be replaced. With each site having different layouts it is impossible to have one uniform size. Our goal is to have designs for 2 or 3 uniform sizes, so that we can have a better inventory of what each site is like. This will make it easier for us to have the measurements of pads on recreation.gov, so that people can determine if a site will work for them.

In order to figure out what size will be needed for each site, we are looking for volunteers to go out and measure the dimensions of each of the current pads, assess whether that is the optimal size for the site, and determine a maximum size. We will have a spreadsheet ready for you to enter this information for the sites. Depending how many interested people we have, we are hoping to split up the sites evenly into groups of 10 or so. Due to ongoing compliance research we will be restoring the non-handicap sites first.

Please sign up on the doodle poll if you are interested <https://doodle.com/poll/67wgv6xzx6i4x9f>

Video Corps (Ongoing)

We are looking to kick off this initiative by making a promotional video for the park highlighting most of the recreational opportunities people can experience here! We are hoping to splice together short 10 second clips highlighting each opportunity and then use the video to promote the park on social media. We want to make these clips eye catching, and the natural beauty of the park as well as humor can be used to catch people's attention. We would suggest doing several takes (maybe some serious and some more humorous if

it fits with your subject matter), so we can pick the clip that best fits with the others. Below are some of the opportunities we are hoping to capture.

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Chimney Rock | 4. Black Smith Shop | 7. Thurmont Vista |
| 2. Wolf Rock | 5. Waterfall | 8. Nature Trail |
| 3. Fly Fishing | 6. Hiking | 9. Wildlife/Plants/Mushrooms |

We are looking for volunteers to capture each of these recreational opportunities. We will be seeking out some of you specifically for your specialty, but if you are interested please let us know. We do have a camera here at the Visitors Center that can be borrowed. When filming, you should have at least one other person with you, because it would be difficult to capture doing these activities by yourself.

If anyone has video editing experience, would you be interested in putting the clips together for us?

We are excited to see what you all come up with and we are thinking we could follow this video up with a promotional camping video.

Additional Opportunity (Possibly Saturday April 21st)

We are working on coordinating with an organization called to Mid-Atlantic Climbers to remove the Graffiti from Wolf Rock. This will potentially occur on our National Park Week service day on April 21st. We would love for someone to video and photograph them in action. If you are interested please let either Ron or Lorne know.

Re-blazing of Horse Trails (Possibly One of First Two Weekends in May)

We are looking at re-blazing the horse trails on the west side of the park. This will involve the mixing of the trail paint and marking trees at visible distances on the same side of the trail. Looking at the Calendar, this project may fit in the first 2 weekends in May. If we finish re-blazing the existing trails we will be looking at blazing the historic road that begins in the Owens Creek picnic area and connects to the equestrian trail.

Mountain Laurel Hikes

We are looking at the possibility of having volunteer Mountain Laurel hikes in late May or Early June. If you have knowledge of the plant and are interested in leading a hike along the Thurmont Vista trail, please let Ron or Lorne know.

Blacksmith Demonstrations

We are getting in contact with our blacksmith, Don Cornell, to set up some black smith demonstrations as early as May.

Social Media Opportunites

We are interested in highlighting our volunteers on our social media platforms during National Volunteers Week (April 15- April 22). We plan on featuring a variety of our volunteer types including visitors services volunteers, trail stewards, tree amigos etc. If you are open to being featured please let us know!



Oh What A 'Paint Nite'! by Shelley Miller, CFA Fundraising Chairman

The Catoctin Forest Alliance Paint Nite featuring Rebecca Pearl was a wonderful evening for all who participated. It provided enlightening instruction in a relaxed atmosphere. Rebecca shared her expertise while encouraging each participant to explore her own talents and have fun. The resulting water colors were beautiful and indeed showcased the incredible diverse artistry of all.

Rebecca thoughtfully brought the evening together by showcasing each water color and offering her thoughts, and encouraging the thoughts of others, resulting in an educational and insightful evening for everyone. Participants were also able to enjoy good food and refreshment, along with the incredible displays in the Main Street Center. This exceptional fundraising event resulted in over \$340 to support CFA's educational outreach programs. Thank you to all and please keep an eye out for the next CFA Paint Nite!



Busy following the instructor's lead.

Photos by Shelley Miller

All the paintings lined up for review.

All participants painted the same scene with different interpretations.





Groundhog (Pre-Valentine's) Day: A Great Time in a Beautiful Place Springfield Manor

by Shelley Miller, CFA Fundraising Chairman

The first Annual Groundhog (Pre-Valentine's) Day fundraiser celebration at Springfield Manor was a wonderful event. Thank you to all, those who took the time to stop by briefly and those who stayed the whole time. There was delicious food and refreshment along with nourishing conversation among CFA members, families, and friends. The CFA'ers even came in third (and yes there were more than three teams!) in Trivia! The Adam's Family, also part of our CFA crowd, came in second! Way to go Adam's family and CFA'ers! CFA is looking forward to making this an annual event if possible. In the meantime, keep an eye out for other CFA events at the beautiful Springfield Manor nestled amidst the Catoctin Forest. Thank you to Springfield Manor for providing fundraising opportunity. Springfield also added an additional contribution to the evening's fundraising proceeds, netting \$100 for CFA educational outreach programs. Thank you to all who supported this event.



Good food, good drink and TRIVIA. What could be better?



*Photos by
Shelley Miller*



Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp

(As Explained by Last Year's Campers)

By: Josh Hansen, Ty Gore, Emily Kozakiewicz

I first went to Camp Catoctin in Fourth grade and it was one of the best summer camps I've been to. During the week, we went on hikes, swam in lakes, collected fish in a river, and even learned how to make alcohol! (We didn't drink any, obviously) While we were there, we also ate really good food, including: Subs, pizza and burgers! WE also had a writing journal where we jotted down all the things we did that day. It's a great opportunity to make friends and memories! I hope you are now convinced to go to Camp Catoctin!

Josh

When I first got the camp Catoctin paper I thought no it won't be fun then I tried it out and I thought it was a lot of fun because you got to meet new friends and still get to learn about nature all the activities were a lot of fun because we got to catch little fish and at the end we got to swim in a lake it was a lot of fun I definitely suggest that you should go.

Ty

When I first went to Camp Catoctin I thought it would be boring and everything educational but I was way wrong. They not only teach but let you interact and be involved with everything they do. Not convinced? They teach you learn and it's FUN! They do crazy experiments and funny skits and so on. And honestly I was sad when that awesome camp over it was a camp like no other. Now I could go on and on but I don't want to spoil so you just got to see it for yourself. Now after that, do you wanna do to camp catoctin?

Emily



Catching fish and other critters in a stream



Students with the backpacks they decorated, wait for the bus to take them home after camp.

Photos by Shelley Miller



Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp 2018

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

The third annual Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp presented by the Catoctin Mountain Park, Catoctin Forest Alliance and Cunningham Falls State Park Partnership will be held from June 25-29.

This year's camp, serving approximately 45 fourth graders from Westminster Elementary School features hiking, educational activities and crafts held in the outdoor settings of Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park. Primary leadership will be provided by Westminster Elementary School teacher Amanda Frushour, and Frederick County Outdoor School Teacher Brenda Newhouse. National and State Park Rangers lead sessions with the children, but additional adult help is always appreciated. The greatest need is for photographers and lunch runners.

Transportation funding is provided by a National Park Foundation Every Kid in a Park Grant awarded to Catoctin Mountain Park and administered by the Catoctin Forest Alliance. Please contact CFA Program Director Debra Mills at dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer or learn more about the camp. (Please be warned that adults helping with this camp seem to temporarily become kids again.)

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 cost is \$15 per person or \$25 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