



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 10 No. 1 January 2020

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

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

A Note from the President—Jim Robbins

Happy 2020. We, at Catoctin Forest Alliance, hope that this year will bring you the success that you would like to see. Once again we start the year off running. We are in the middle of planning all our programs: for the arrival of the Amish from Indiana; the arrival of applications for the Artist in Residence program for the 2020 Spring season; the planting of some additional pollinator gardens at Catoctin Mountain Park; the pollinator gardens at the Thurmont Library and additional planting in the garden at the back of the library; work in picnic areas in Cunningham Falls State Park; completion of demonstration kits for casting at the Catoctin Furnace; and the completion of trail at the library with the grand opening on May 1, 2020 10:30am. That is only part of the projects we have on the list for this year.

We have received a grant from the DAR for new pollinator gardens and additional work on the existing one at the visitor center at Catoctin Mountain Park (CMP). The Monocacy Foundation grant was for clothing for the SUCCESS youth and it was greatly appreciated. They are both great organizations that are doing great things for Frederick County. Two new organizations have been doing work in CMP. MOM's Organic Market has been doing barberry removal and has planned additional projects. Judy Thompson from DAR helped the SUCCESS youth remove old growth from the pollinator garden at the visitor center. What a “sport” on a cold day. We hope that the friendship of all these organizations will continue to be of great benefit to CFA and the mountain.



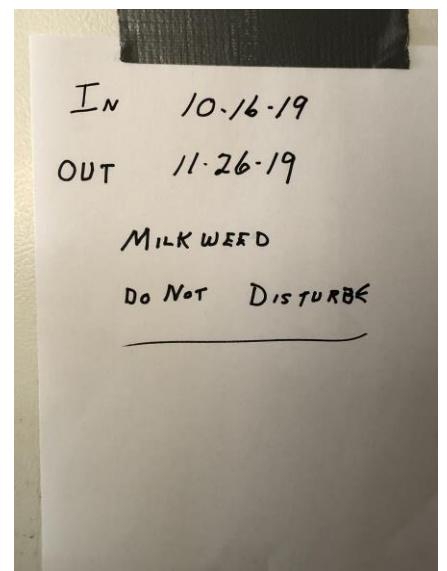
Just a reminder: We cannot do these projects and more without your support. Please donate to the CFA and pay your dues for the year (see the last page for more details). We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We look forward to working with you, having you be a part of the CFA and leaving a positive footprint on the mountains we call Catoctin.

SUCCESS

In the last newsletter I mentioned that we had placed milkweed seeds in cold stratification. Well now the process continues with the planting of the seeds and then letting the magic of nature take place. We have continued getting milkweed seeds for planting in the spring and are now finished with that project. The youth have completed the molding/casting demo kits for the Catoctin Furnace, painted new posts for trail sign replacement on trails in CMP and are now working on replacing picnic tables in Cunningham Falls State Park (CFSP).

March is the month that we start working with the Amish in CMP and helping with the Maple Syrup Festival in CFSP March 14-15 and March 21-22, 2020. It is a great fun event and something that the whole family can enjoy. March and April will also see us back on the trail at the library to add steps to a section of the trail. Then we will be ready to open the trail. The opening of the trail is scheduled for May 1, 2020 at 10:30. All are welcome to come enjoy the trail that was built for people with disabilities in mind.

Photos of Pollinator Garden Project



Left to right: Separating milkweed seeds from the pods; milkweed seeds in cold storage for a month to condition them to cool temperatures and give them a jump start for early planting; Do Not Disturb sign



Planting milkweed seeds



First of many milkweed seeds to sprout



Butterfly gardens at Thurmont Regional Library planted by SUCCESS students and the Thurmont Green Team



Left: SUCCESS students working on demo kits to be used by the Catoctin Furnace to help students make metal castings of objects.

Right: Stacks of partially finished demo kits.

Below: SUCCESS students and leader Jim Robbins working on trail posts for Catoctin Mountain Park.



Looking forward: UPCOMING Special Events

submitted by Shelley Miller

We hope your 2020 is getting off to a wonderful start. If you have already renewed your membership with CFA, thank you! If you have not but wish to, please consider going to the website, www.catoctinforestalliance.org to do so. 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 consider being a part of them!

Thank you to...



Joyce Tuten for providing an opportunity for us to learn more about Climate Change in general and as it relates to pollinators. Joyce presented her first talk of 2020 on Jan. 14th. Her next talk will be on Jan. 28th. Please join us at the Thurmont library!

Save the date for...

A Continuation of an Informative Talk on Climate Change by Joyce Tuten

When: Tuesday Jan 28 (2020)
at 7 p.m.

Where: Thurmont Library
(76 E Moser Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788)

As you read this, climate change is threatening our world, and we have a moral obligation to act. While you've probably read and heard a lot about climate change, the science behind it is complicated. Joyce gave a talk for us last year and is joining us again for updates and more information. Come spend 60 minutes connecting the dots between science, our climate, people and planet – and the solutions. Joyce Tuten is a high school science teacher who is an expert at teaching science to non-science people. She is also a member of the Middletown, MD Sustainability Committee, a NOAA Climate Steward Educator and a trained Climate Reality Project Leader. Joyce will explain the science of the greenhouse effect and global warming and what humans are doing to cause the climate to change. Short but information-dense, her presentation will bring to life the chain of events happening around the planet and the solutions you can be a part of. Walk away as a new ambassador for understanding and an agent for change that will last generations. Information will also address climate change and pollinators.

Note: In case of inclement weather, please check the Thurmont Regional Library FaceBook page
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Thurmont-Regional-Library/115731665175353>

It's that time of the year again! Please join us for the annual Groundhog Day Pre-Valentine's Day fundraiser to benefit CFA educational programs!

Save the date for...



CFA Groundhog Day Pre-Valentine's Day Celebration

A CFA fundraiser at

Springfield Winery

(11836 Auburn Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788)

Friday Jan. 31

(Groundhog Day Eve's Eve!)

5 pm-9 pm.

Join us for some after-work social time and remain for dinner and into the evening if you wish. Please remember to tell the hostess you are with CFA and a portion of all of your purchase proceeds will be donated to CFA educational programs. No rsvp is necessary. Just come and enjoy **Groundhog Day Eve's Eve (and Pre-Valentine's Day)** with us! There will be **trivia from 7-9!** So get your team(s) ready! Who will shine and who will be left in the shadows? (Get the Groundhog Day pun here?)...Jim and his competitive group? The Catoctin Mountain group? A Cunningham Falls State Park group? A mixture? Who will earn the coveted reign of champion this year? ;-) Save the date and spread the word! Hope to see you there!



Jim enjoys the beauty of the building and moment of quiet before the festivities (of 2019) begin.



Springfield is a beautiful place to enjoy friends and spend some time together.
Scenes from Groundhog Day at Springfield (2019)



Team Rue (left), Team Kathy (middle) and Team Jim (right) seriously engaged in the trivia (2019).



Jessica and Eliza enjoy the festivities of the CFA Groundhog Day event (2019).
Thank you for joining us!

We hope to see you all again this year on Jan. 31, 2020!



RAFFLE



Proceeds support 2020 CFA educational programs including the Middle/High School Field Trip Program, SUCCESS, AIR, Native Pollinator Gardens and more...

To find out about these programs and so much more visit

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

\$20.00*-35 tickets

BEST VALUE

(*includes one present year's membership in CFA for a person of your choosing - self or another person)

\$10.00-15 tickets

\$5.00-7 tickets

\$1.00-1 ticket

Please consider supporting CFA by purchasing raffle tickets in advance of the drawings (between Jan. 31 and Feb. 5th 2020) by contacting Shelley at Shellbio@aol.com. Raffle prizes include \$50 restaurant gift cards toward a Valentine's Day (or Any Day for those who make every day Valentine's Day ☺) treat. First raffle ticket pulled gets choice of restaurant gift card; second raffle ticket pulled gets choice of remaining restaurant gift card(s) etc.... Included in raffle gift cards (so far) are Dutch's Daughter Restaurant (Frederick, Md) and Avery's Maryland Grille (Frederick, Md). Need not be present to win.



Thank you for supporting the mission of CFA to preserve & promote the health of the Catoctin Mountain forest for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

CFA will participate in a Frederick County Public School STEM Showcase...

The Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA) will host a table at the **STEM Showcase** during the Frederick County Public Schools 39th Science and Engineering Fair and 7th Annual Social Studies Fair at Tuscarora High School on **March 28, 2020**

(9-11:30). Once again FCPS will be holding a combined Science and SS Fair with a hands on, interactive STEM Showcase for their elementary school students. It is a great community outreach opportunity and a fun way to interact and inspire our elementary students. Please contact Shelley (Shellbio@aol.com) if you would like to participate in the CFA sponsored table at this event.



Looking Back... by Shelley Miller

Again-Thank you FCPS SUCCESS students!

CFA again extends a special “thank you” to the FCPS SUCCESS Students (along with Jodi Cool and Jim Robbins) for their hard work in helping preparing the Lewis House for the 2019 CFA Open House Event. Among many other preparations, the SUCCESS students setup and decorated the beautiful tree!



The tree for the CFA Holiday Open House was decorated by the FCPS SUCCESS students. Thank you SUCCESS students!

A Festive and Musical CFA Holiday Open House

The CFA Holiday Open house was filled with wonderful fellowship, delicious food, incredible music, and a multitude of good times and laughter. Thank you to all who contributed to, and joined us for, this treasured opportunity to join one another to further strengthen the bonds of CFA with present members, their family, and friends. We always welcome newcomers as well. The event was, once again, highlighted by the sensational music of Steve Hess and Gene Sarno.



Sarno & Hess are available for concerts, pub/restaurant gigs, receptions & private parties. They perform a wide range of classic rock, soft country, traditional & contemporary Irish and folk music. Check out their website at <http://www.sarno-n-hess.com/>

Gene Sarno and Steve Hess graciously shared their time and talents at the CFA Holiday Open House. Thank you Sarno & Hess! (<http://www.sarno-n-hess.com/>) The table pictured contains the raffle prizes.



CFA wishes to thank the donating raffle prize sponsors: Bethany Dellagnello www.bethanydjewelry.com, Catoctin Veterinary Clinic (Paws Lane, Thurmont MD), Edible Arrangements (Rosemont Ave, Frederick MD), Kountry Kitchen (Thurmont, MD), McCutcheons Apple Products (Frederick, MD). Your donations to the raffle help CFA support their educational outreach programs for 2020. Thank you sincerely!

Happy raffle winners, Katrinka and Samantha, hold up their prizes.

Special “thank you” to Terry Cramer (right) and Tammy Foland (left of Terry) for assisting with raffle ticket sales again this year. Your help is sincerely appreciated.





Left: Katrinka, Jim, and Susan enjoy an entertaining conversation while Dennis exits the kitchen with his hot cup of coffee. **Right:** Jim, Annie and Mike Miller enjoy conversation and the music of Sarno and Hess

Another Successful Gift Wrapping Service and Fundraising Event at Barnes & Noble (in Frederick)



Once again CFA served as gift wrappers at Barnes and Noble in Frederick. Contributions amounting to over \$300 (to be used for 2020 educational programs) were generously donated to CFA by folks who had their gifts wrapped by our volunteers. A significant piece of this service is that it allows folks to learn about CFA and what opportunities CFA has to offer. Outreach such as this is an important part of the growth of CFA. A special thank you goes out to Dr. Jennifer McDonald DVM of Emmitsburg Veterinary Hospital, and her children (Caroline and Ella) who volunteered their time for the third year in a row! Thank you for helping to make this a successful CFA service and fund-raising event!

For the third year in a row, Caroline and Ella volunteer to wrap gifts at the CFA gift wrapping table at Barnes and Noble in Frederick. Thank you!

(From left to right below) CFA members Linda Sundergill, Debbie Mills and Shelley Miller serve at the Barnes and Noble giftwrapping table.



News from Catoctin Mountain Park

by Peggy Gaul, Chief of Interpretation and Visitors Services



- We are working with Scouting USA Troops to prepare for work weekends in March and April during which we will get the camps ready for the upcoming season.
- During the month of March Amish volunteers from Indiana will assist park maintenance staff in doing historic preservation work at Camp Greentop.
- Upcoming Public Programs:
 - February 11, at 7:00 PM at the Smithsburg Library, Park Ranger Andrew Regiec will present a program about Catoctin's New Deal. This program will detail the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps as a whole, but will specifically focus on how Company 1374 helped to develop what is now Catoctin Mountain Park.
 - March 7, 8, 14, and 15, at 1:00 PM at the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center. Orienteering Classes. Learn how to read a map and compass. Then test your skills on the orienteering course. Space is limited. Call the visitor center 301-663-9388 to sign up.
 - March 24, at 7:00 PM at the Thurmont Library, Park Ranger Andrew Regiec will present a program about Catoctin's New Deal. This program will detail the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps as a whole, but will specifically focus on how Company 1374 helped to develop what is now Catoctin Mountain Park.
- New vault toilets have been installed at Owens Creek Picnic and Poplar Grove Youth Camping Area.

Every Kid Outdoors by Carrie Andresen- Strawn, Park Ranger/Educational Program Coordinator



Our Every Kid Outdoors 4th grade program had a very successful start this fall with 7 schools (9 field trips) and 658 children visiting the park. This spring we have 6 field trips booked, with 4 different schools and more in process. We are on track to exceed our goal of having

1200 students here in the park this year! We are very grateful for all the volunteers and the CFA who assist us with this award winning program.



Students enjoy a field trip in the forest.



CFA Receives an Impact Grant from the Community Foundation of Frederick County

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Chairman

With a grant from the Unrestricted Impact Fund, the Community Foundation of Frederick County is supporting development of a pilot edition of Educational Adaptations, a field trip program for middle and secondary students.

It has been determined that hands-on learning taught in natural settings can ignite undiscovered passions for science and learning in students at all academic levels. Taking advantage of this phenomenon, the Educational Adaptations program will focus on the development of curriculum based educational modules meant to be taught outside. While intended to begin transformation of the Cunningham Falls State Park (CFSP) Manor Area into a recreational learning center, these materials will be suitable for teaching in most natural settings.

Basing these activities in the CFSP Manor Area will introduce this underutilized area as the “go-to” place for environmental education. Increased Manor Area visitation will familiarize citizens with alternative recreational opportunities and help relieve pressure on the resources of the CFSP Lake Area.

The CFA education team and the CFSP interpretive staff will meet soon to begin development of the first module to be presented as field trips this Spring. Please contact Debbie Mills at debbiemills11770@gmail.com to learn more about the program or to join the planning team.

The Catoctin Forest Alliance thanks the Community Foundation of Frederick County for supporting the Educational Adaptations Pilot Program



Artist in Residence: A Call for Artists

by Linda Sundergill, AIR Program Chairman

The CFA Artist in Residence program (AIR) is in its tenth year. In that time, we have had the pleasure of hosting 30 artists—painters, poets, metal artists, fabric artists and photographers. The artists live in a cabin at Catoctin Mountain Park during their residency. They interact with the park visitors, do demonstrations or teach classes and create art that is inspired by the Catoctin forest. At the end of the residency each artist donates a piece of their forest inspired art to CFA. There will be one three week residency for 2020, May 1-22 or September 9-30 (artist's choice). Applications are due February 15, 2020. The applications will be reviewed by a panel of professional artists and the applicant who is selected will be notified by March 15.

Application

If you are an artist who enjoys the outdoors and would like to spend a couple of weeks in an historic cabin at Camp Misty Mount, please consider applying for the CFA AIR program. Visit our AIR webpage at:

<http://www.catoctinforestalliance.us/index.php/artist-in-residence>



CFA/Catoctin Mountain Park Calendar 2020

January 2020

- 28 Joyce Tuten, Climate Change talk at Thurmont Library 7pm
 31 CFA Annual Groundhog Day Eve (Pre-Valentine's Day) event at Springfield Manor 5-9pm

February

- 11 Catoctin's New Deal talk (Civilian Conservation Corps) Smithsburg Library 7pm
 15 Artist in Residence applications due
 26 CFA meeting at Lewis property 317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788

March

- 2-27 Amish working in park
 7 Orienteering 1pm at Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor's Center
 8 Orienteering 1pm at Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor's Center
 14 Orienteering 1pm at Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor's Center
 15 Orienteering 1pm at Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor's Center
 14-15 Maple Syrup Festival, Cunningham Falls State Park
 21-22 Maple Syrup Festival, Cunningham Falls State Park
 24 Catoctin's New Deal talk (Civilian Conservation Corps) Thurmont Library 7pm
 28 STEM Showcase Tuscarora High School 9-11:30am

April

- 15 Newsletter articles due. Send to lindasundergill@comcast.net
 22 CFA meeting at Lewis property 317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788

May

- 1 Grand Opening of Thurmont Library Trail 10:30am

June

- 24 CFA meeting at Lewis property 317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788

July

- 15 Newsletter articles due. Send to lindasundergill@comcast.net

August

- 26 CFA meeting at Lewis property 317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788

October

- 15 Newsletter article dues. Send to lindasundergill@comcast.net
 28 CFA meeting at Lewis property 317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788

December

- 16 CFA Christmas Party

Consider Donating to CFA

To help CFA continue its programs to preserve and protect the Catoctin 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

<input type="radio"/> Acorn	up to \$99
<input type="radio"/> Seedling	\$100- 499.99
<input type="radio"/> Sapling	\$500-999.99
<input type="radio"/> Mighty Oak	\$1000 and over

Donations checks can be made out to CFA and sent to Catoctin 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** to the address below. The yearly membership dues are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple for the period December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

**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 website at www.catoctinforestalliance.org