



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 7 No. 3 July 2017

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

History and Nature Come Alive during Camp CATOCTIN 2.0

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

Westminster Elementary School 8:00 a.m., Monday, June 26 –

Forty-three excited fourth and fifth grade children start the second full week of summer vacation by arriving at school hours before many of their friends get out of bed. The total absence of electronic devices and flip flops are a good indication that the group is prepared for outdoor adventure and enjoying time with friends. The bus is filled to near capacity as the group departs for Catoctin Mountain Park and Camp CATOCTIN 2.0 (Children Attaining Objective Critical Thinking Inspired by Nature), a Catoctin Forest Alliance Program in partnership with Catoctin Mountain Park.



The second annual Camp CATOCTIN, a week-long summer day camp adventure provided through the Catoctin Forest Alliance partnership with Catoctin Mountain Park was held Monday, June 26 through Friday, June 30, 2017. The Cunningham Falls State Park Ranger staff generously shared their facilities and provided additional support and programming.

The mix of 4th and 5th grade students and new and returning campers added an extra sense of adventure to this year's camp. Last year's alumni shared tales of thunderstorm survival and 10 mile hikes that failed miserably at the intended goal of intimidating new recruits.

While campers seemed to be most excited by the daily menu of snacks and fun but nutritious lunches, their leaders and educators, Ms. Amanda Frushour, 5th grade teacher from Westminster Elementary School and Ms. Brenda Newhouse, Frederick County Outdoor School teacher, were focused on student safety and the introduction and reinforcement of curriculum based science and history lessons including:

- Completion of the Catoctin Mountain Park Jr. Ranger Badge assisted by the Catoctin Interpretive Staff
- The History of Alcohol Production, a walk to the Blue Blazes Still led by Retired Interpretive Ranger Debra Mills
- A Macroinvertebrate Stream Study at Cunningham Falls State Park, led by Brenda Newhouse and assisted by CFA members and NPS volunteers Shelley Miller and Darrell Despres
- The Scales and Tales Program provided by Superintendent Mark Spurrier and the Interpretive Staff of Cunningham Falls State Park
- A walk to the Catoctin Furnace and bus tour of the Catoctin Furnace Area led by Ms. Frushour and Ms. Newhouse
- A geology walk led by former Frederick Outdoor School Principal Eddie Main
- The History of Charcoal Production, a walk of the Charcoal Trail led by retired Interpretive Ranger Debra Mills.

A generous mix of traditional camp activities brought new excitement each day. It is almost a given that the camp theme song, "She Threw it Out the Window," is playing in the mind of a camper or parent this very minute. Campers used their artistic talents to decorate keepsake backpacks and picture frames. They made dirt cakes, roasted marshmallows to make smores and practiced their parts for the closing ceremony on Friday.

Transportation for Camp CATOCTIN 2.0 was provided by a National Park Foundation Every Kid in a Park grant awarded to Catoctin Mountain Park and administered by the Catoctin Forest Alliance. A Constellation Energy Community Champions grant, secured by CFA member Jim Sundergill, paid for camp T-shirts. A nominal fee paid by parents was combined with donations from BJ's Wholesale Club and the Westminster Elementary School PTO to purchase morning and afternoon snacks, lunches and craft materials.

Cunningham Falls State Park Lake Area, 12:00 noon, Friday, June 30 –

The Catoctin Mountain Park Youth Conservation Corps has finished grilling hot dogs and hamburgers for 139 people attending the Camp CATOCTIN 2.0 Closing ceremony. The bus and multiple personal vehicles arrive loaded with campers and the 75 family members joining them for the Closing Celebration. The 5th graders perform a Reader's Theater version of the traditional outdoor school story, "Sassafras" before the entire group sings "She Threw it out the Window." The children say a special thanks to Debra Mills, Amanda Frushour and Brenda Newhouse. Westminster Elementary School Principal, Whitney Warner compliments her students for spending time outdoors.

Everyone enjoys lunch before Ranger Cody swears in the group as Junior National Park Rangers. The children receive certificates of completion before swimming in the lake as the final camp activity.

Cunningham Falls State Park Lake Area, 2:30 p.m., Friday, June 30 –

An empty bus departs for Westminster for the final time. There were no children left behind. Every Camp CATOCTIN camper has been joined by at least one friend or family member who chose to share their special closing moments and enjoy a day in the park. A good time was had by all.

See photos on next page from the Camp Catoctin.



Food line at the closing picnic



Receiving certificates



Student artwork tells their story of Camp CATOCTIN



Students assembled to tell the Sassafras story



Ranger Cody presents Jr. Ranger badges to the campers



Let's eat cupcakes.

From the Desk of the President, Jim Robbins

Summer is upon us and we are still busy doing things in the mountains. We are working with the Every Kid in the Park Grant again this year and have just completed our second week long Camp Catoctin. Please see the article about the program from Debbie Mills one the front page. The Friends of Maryland State Parks and CFA are in the process of working together with the guidance of Mel Poole who is working closely with the organization. I will be visiting the Amish in August and expect they will be here again in 2018. We will also be having a discussion about finishing the outside of the stable with the help of the SUCCESS youth and then working on the inside of the stable. This activity will be funded by a grant from the Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Chesapeake District – Civitan International, Inc. Our spring Artist in Residence arrived in Catoctin Mountain Park in May with his family and did two wonderful presentations with the public. Our next Artist in Residence will be in the Cunningham Falls State Park at the Manor Area. He is a videographer.

SUCCESS – The youth have been busy with picnic tables,(tearing apart and re-building), cutting wire for 250 wire cages for 250 Hemlocks that will be planted in Cunningham Falls State Park , maple sugar prep and collection, helping the Amish adults with the stable at Green Top and the trail to Renner Cemetery. We have one member of the SUCCESS program working for the Cunningham Falls State Park and expect great things in the future. We are changing the focus of the program from basic trail work to landscaping, trail work, mowing, general maintenance and being responsible for all the maintenance in an area of the State Park. They will be working with the Amish again this year and many other projects.



Former SUCCESS student David Wolfe is now a paid employee of Cunningham Falls State Park



The end of the Catoctin Furnace Trail, cleared by SUCCESS students



Clearing the Catoctin Furnace Trail

SUCCESS photos continued.

Doing some heavy trail work



The SUCCESS group:
Left to right: Jodi Cool (counselor), David Wolfe, Josh Shifflet, Josh Laprad and Jim Robbins, CFA President and SUCCESS Advisor.



Digital Photography 101



**With the Catoctin Forest Alliance's
Summer 2017 Artist in Residence**



Nathan Gobes

August 4th

6pm – 8:30pm

at the Manor Area of Cunningham Falls State Park.

The Manor Area is located along Rt. 15,
three miles south of Thurmont and
across from the Catoctin Wildlife Preserve.

Includes a Lesson, Q & A, and A Gallery Presentation

Free and Open to the Public

Bring your own camera.

Artists in Residence

CFA was honored to have Ben and Melissa Panter from New Jersey as our Spring Artists in Residence May 14-27, 2017. Melissa, an artist, did a public presentation at the Catoclin Mountain Park Visitor's Center helping children to make block prints. Ben did a photography walk for the public.



The Panter Family, Ben, Melissa and their two sons.



Ben Panter conducting the photography walk at Catoclin Mountain Park.

FREDERICK COUNTY'S MOST SCENIC 5K

The 3d Annual FRIENDS 10K, 5K, FUN RUN/WALK and TOT TROT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017



10K and 5K – Challenging, paved course near Hunting Creek Lake in Cunningham Falls Park's Houck Area. 9 am.

Fun Run / Walk – A paved 1.4-mile stroller-friendly event near Hunting Creek Lake and Cunningham Falls. 9:05 am.

Tot Trot – A sprint for the youngsters! 8:50 am.

A family-friendly event! Food! Prizes!



For more information/online registration:

<https://www.runningahead.com/events/Friends5K/2017-10-29>

Proceeds benefit the Friends of Cunningham Falls State Park and Gambrill State Park www.cunninghamgambrill.org a 501(C)3 charitable organization. The Friends provide volunteer time and donations to support park programming, infrastructure and special events.

**Frederick County's most scenic running event
in the fall foliage and crisp air. Paved, rolling course.**

Register early, limit 400 participants due to parking.

<https://www.runningahead.com/events/Friends5K/2017-10-29>

Sunday, October 29, 2017, 9 am

Cunningham Falls Park William Houck (Lake) Area

14343 South Beach Circle

(in the large parking area across the lake from the park HQ at 14039 Catoclin Hollow Rd.)

From US 15 in Thurmont, take MD 77 west 3 miles. Turn left on to Catoclin Hollow Rd. Proceed 1 mile and turn right on to William Houck Lane. After the entrance station, turn right and find the large parking area.

All proceeds benefit the Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks (www.cunninghamgambrill.org Combined Federal Campaign charity # 93047). Currently, we are working with a contractor to save an important Frederick County cultural resource, the Ironmaster's House, which is adjacent to the Catoclin Iron Furnace.



Help us save the Ironmaster's house!

Calendar 2017-18

August 23	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
September 10	Fall Artist in Residence arrives
October 1	Tea at Gambrill 4pm, contact Alicia.norris@maryland.gov
October 25	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
December 20	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
December	Christmas Party (TBD)
February 28, 2018	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
April 25	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
June 27	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
August 22	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
October 24	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
December 19	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property

We Welcome You to Join CFA

We'd love to have you join us in our mission to protect the Catoctin Mountain forest. As you have seen in this newsletter, we have many programs planned for 2017. 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 \$10 per person or \$20 per couple for a membership that will last through December 2017.

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