



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

*Newsletter of the CFA*

*Vol. 5 No. 4 October 2015*

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

## **Mel Poole Retires as Superintendent of Catoctin Mountain Park**

On August 25, 2015 Mel Poole retired after 37 years with the National Park Service. A large group of colleagues, friends and family gathered to mark the occasion. Many people spoke and shared stories about Mel and then Mel took the microphone and gave a beautiful address, one that he said was harder for him to deliver than some eulogies he has given.

Below are some excerpts from his address.

“Seldom is it the case in our modern society that we are blessed with a job so fulfilling and rewarding that it is a joy to come to work each day. Even more seldom is anyone so fortunate as to be surrounded at work by colleagues who, almost universally, deeply share that joy and dedication to the mission. Thankfully, and with monumental gratitude, I have now shared these blessings with all of you for 37 years. It has truly been the experience of a lifetime.

So, it is with mixed feelings of melancholy, excitement and hope for the future, and immense pride in all of you that I take this difficult step. It also presents an opportunity for me to broaden and diversify my personal journey before it is too late to have one.

The only job better than being the Superintendent of a national park is being a visitor in one. So, I am retiring while my moving parts still move; so I can do the things that I joined the National Park Service to do. Look for me building my birding life list, wandering, and coming to a park near you. In retirement, I plan to extol the virtues of the Golden Age pass to other retirees and all fee collectors while traveling with my family to visit all the parks I missed on the first pass. You may recognize the footprints but the memories belong to me.”

“I started with NPS back in June, 1978. Work with this agency has taken me to 48 states and two countries where I’ve worn many hats and shared many smiles. I may forget names and a few of your faces. But I will never forget those who crossed my path and some who have gone on home to Glory (not the movie, the real one). I have truly broadened my horizons both internally and externally. Passion for this national park idea is what brought many of us to this place and time. It is what puts us on the side of angels and gets us up every morning for work.”

“My days working in national parks are drawing to a close. Just as you can sense the coming of a cooler season on the land when it turns golden in the fall (or, in my case, silver) and the air turns cooler and promises the coming of winter. There is a sadness in these moments, but a gentle joyousness, too, as I acknowledge our friendships and all the kindnesses that I have received through the years. That I must say goodbye to this wondrous place and all the wonderful people I have been associated with along the way saddens me. But my life is now under new management and I wish you all the best! Every sunset here is a sunrise somewhere else.

We all have baggage that we accumulate during our careers and I'd like to lighten my load by leaving this poem that sums up my feelings.

**The Look-Out's Goodbye**  
**By James C Iler**

The season's end, the rain comes down,  
The clouds are dark and low,  
Just one more day and I'll be leaving,  
Down the mountain I will go.

I'm leaving my old mountain;  
I'll be going on the morrow,  
And I'll close my lookout's cabin  
With a feeling close to sorrow.

Farewell to thee, old mountain,  
Goodbye to thee, my friend,  
For tomorrow I am leaving;  
Down the trail my I'll wend.

May our paths cross again – soon and often.  
Happy Trails, my friends – till we meet again –on the higher ground.”

Mel was the driving force behind the formation of the Catoctin Forest Alliance as a friends group for Catoctin Mountain Park. It was also his dream to have an Artist in Residence (AIR) program in the park and that dream was fulfilled. Since 2010 the parks (Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Fall State Park) have hosted 2-3 artists per year. The program attracts artists from all over the US and has been a huge success.



On behalf of CFA, Linda Sundergill presented Mel with an oil painting; one from the AIR collection, done by Nancy Haver entitled “Chimney Rock”. Mel was particularly fond of the painting and it had been hanging in his office since May of 2014. CFA made it an official gift to Mel in honor of his wonderful career and retirement.

Best wishes to you Mel and family. We hope your retirement will be just as fulfilling as your career in the Park Service has been.

## Quarterly Meetings

On Saturday November 7, 2015, CFA will begin quarterly public meetings at the old Thurmont Library 11 Water Street. The name on the building is "Thurmont Main Street Center". The meetings will begin at 8:30am with donuts and coffee and a meeting from 9:00-10:00am. Ranger Andrew Vecchio, Asst. Manager of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks, will be our first speaker

Please join us to learn more about the state parks and the Catoctin Forest Alliance. There is some on street parking and more parking in the municipal lot between Water Street and S. Center St.



## From the Desk of the President

By Jim Robbins

CFA has been very busy over the last few months. We have been working with the National Park Foundation and the Potrero Group to revamp our marketing, publicity and web page. This should be finished within the next month. Andy from the Potrero Group will be here on October 22, 2015 from 8:30 – noon at the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitors Center to talk with us about the organization and help us move into the next chapter and future of CFA. This will involve membership, fund-raising and other issues that can help us grow. If you are interested in coming please let me know [jimrobbins@comcast.net](mailto:jimrobbins@comcast.net) or 301-693-9703).

The SUCCESS Youth have 2 new members this year for a total of 6 youth. We started this year off working on the trails for the parks and will continue this until the snow falls and then move inside for additional projects. The SUCCESS program is now headquartered in the Lewis House and Garage so you will see some changes at the Lewis Area.

We have a speaker series starting in November which is open to the public. See the article above for more information. Let us know what you are interested in hearing about and we can add those topics to the list.

We had some additional outstanding Artist-in-Residence this year and will be using 2 of them for programs again this year. We have many new programs that are coming and will keep you informed about this and with new programs comes additional help that we need. CFA is like all other organizations and we just do not have enough people to help us out. We will send out a calendar of events for the coming year so please volunteer to help with 1, 2, 3, or more so that we can continue this great work that we do.

## Programs at Fox Haven Organic Farm & Learning

- Oct. 19 Mindful Eating;** Raw Emotions; explore raw food <http://bit.ly/1Q6mPe6>
- Oct. 25 Film Night! Sips and Shorts;** tasting craft local beverages <http://bit.ly/1Pfshg9>
- Oct. 26 Settling into the Season;** root veggies <http://bit.ly/1Q6mPe6>
- Oct. 26 Naturalist Book group:** Forests, the Shadow of Civilization <http://bit.ly/1MUDnVB>
- Oct. 28 Calling all naturalists, conservationists, environmental educators!** Aldo Leopold Education Project <http://bit.ly/1OsVFjv>

To RSVP or for more information on any of these events please click on the links after each event listing or email us at [joann@foxhavenfarm.org](mailto:joann@foxhavenfarm.org) 240-490-5484

## **Artist in Residence** By Peggie Gaul, Catoctin Mountain Park Ranger

Artist in Residence Linda Johnston led three (3) public Nature Journaling Workshops and one (1) workshop for a local Girl Scout Troop. A fourth program was cancelled due to weather. Two of the programs took place near the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center and one program was held at the library. Participants were guided through the process of creating a journal with personal reflections - in words and art - on the natural world. They learned that a nature journal is a place for growing thoughts, feelings, observations and ideas; for connecting to the natural world, and observing the many surrounding life forms. The national park and the deck at the Thurmont Regional Library were perfect spots for participants to begin documenting their personal observations.

Below is a link to the article in the Frederick News Post about the Artist in Residency program.

[http://www.fredericknewspost.com/your\\_life/life\\_news\\_collection/real\\_life/art-in-the-woods-catoctin-artist-program-blends-nature-art/article\\_6c9d2693-d86e-52fd-8eb2-328458dca837.html](http://www.fredericknewspost.com/your_life/life_news_collection/real_life/art-in-the-woods-catoctin-artist-program-blends-nature-art/article_6c9d2693-d86e-52fd-8eb2-328458dca837.html)

AIR Lisa Kyle was featured in a video about climate change and our park vistas. You can see this video on our park website: <http://www.nps.gov/cato/learn/nature/scenicvistas.htm>

Below are photos from the public presentations led by AIR Linda Johnston.



Woman drawing



Girl journaling by stream



Man sketching



Linda Johnston, AIR journalist



## State Park Events

By Mark Spurrier, Manager Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks and Alicia Norris, Park Ranger

**October 24, 2015 7-9 pm**

**"Spirits of the Furnace"**, a historical program in the Catoclin Furnace Village with storytelling and access to some of the historic buildings including Harriet's Chapel and the Double Log Cabin. For details and to register please go to [www.catoclinfurnace.org](http://www.catoclinfurnace.org). The event is sponsored by Cunningham Falls State Park and the Catoclin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.

### **“Spirits of the Furnace” event in Catoclin Furnace, Maryland**

**Who:** Open to the Public/Tickets required

**When:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 7:00-9:30 p.m.

**Where:** Cunningham Falls State Park Manor Area/Catoclin Furnace Log Cabin along Route 806, Thurmont, MD 21788

**Cost:** Tickets must be ordered in advance.  
\$10 per adult (ages 13+), and \$5 per child (ages 7 – 12)

**Contact:** Tickets must be purchased in advance using PayPal @ [www.catoclinfurnace.org](http://www.catoclinfurnace.org)  
Questions – call 443-463-6437

On Saturday, October 24, 2015, a local tradition will refuse to go quietly in the night at Cunningham Falls State Park and the Catoclin Furnace Historical District! The *Spirits* will return to tell their tales of days gone by!

The “Spirits of the Furnace” is an entertaining living history event that will take place from 7 pm to 9:30 pm. Visitors will be led by spirited guides on a night hike around the historic Catoclin Iron Furnace. Frequent stops will be made to hear local stories from costumed characters as they recall lore of the furnace and the Frederick area.

Hikes will take approximately one hour and will cover some uneven terrain in grassy or forested areas. Participants are encouraged to wear shoes appropriate for hiking, warm clothing and bring a flashlight. This hike may not be appropriate for very young children and does not accommodate strollers or wheelchairs. Tickets must be ordered beforehand and includes the hike and refreshments (limit one per visitor).

This event is made possible through the cooperative efforts of the Harriet Chapel, the Silver Oak Academy, Catoclin Forest Historical Society and Cunningham Falls State Park.

#### **November 1, 2015**

##### **The Friends 5k, Fun Run and Tot Trot.**

This 1st annual running event will take participants on a scenic yet challenging course within the Cunningham Falls State Park William Houck Area. Races begin at 8:45. Details and pre- registration can be found at [www.racepacket.com](http://www.racepacket.com). Search Friends 5K. Same day registration available.

#### **Join us at Cunningham Falls State Park on November 1st for the first Annual Friends 5k!**

Get early access to the park and take part in our 5k, stroller-friendly fun run, or bring the kids along for the tot trot.

**Proceeds Benefit the Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks.**

**CFC# 93047**

**Learn More: [cunninghamgambrill.org](http://cunninghamgambrill.org)**

# Join CFA

We'd love to have you join us in our mission to protect the Catoctin Mountain forest. As you can see, we have lots of programs planned for 2015 and 2016. Your support would be a great benefit to us and the forest.

To join CFA, please send the membership application form and a check made out to **Catoctin Forest Alliance** to the address below.

**CFA, C/O Linda Sundergill  
Membership Chairman  
7015 Sunday's Lane  
Frederick, MD 21702**



**Dues Schedule:**

<b>Joining Month</b>	<b>Per Person</b>	<b>Per Couple</b>
Dec- Feb.	\$20	\$30
Mar-May	\$15	\$25
June-Aug	\$10	\$20
Sept-Nov.	\$5	\$15

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Interest**

Strategic Planning \_\_\_\_      Membership \_\_\_\_      Conservation/Education \_\_\_\_  
Fundraising \_\_\_\_      Artist in Residence \_\_\_\_      Marketing/Publicity \_\_\_\_  
Information Technology \_\_\_\_      Finance \_\_\_\_

**CFA Website** Visit our website at [www.catoctinforall.org](http://www.catoctinforall.org)