



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

[www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 6 No. 4 October 2016

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

## SUCCESS students clear a trail from Catoctin Furnace to the Renner Cemetery

The SUCCESS program is administered from the Frederick County Public Schools Staff Development Center in Walkersville, MD,. This program provides post-secondary transition education for students ages 18-21 who have completed at least four years in a comprehensive high school and exhibit potential for competitive employment. Students earn a Maryland Certificate of Completion. They work in a community-based setting to learn skills for independent living and are exposed to the world of work. We have been fortunate to have SUCCESS students working in Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park for the past three years under the guidance of CFA President Jim Robbins. See more details about SUCCESS on the next page.



*We need a trail here!*



Forging the trail



Use the link below to view the article about SUCCESS that appeared in the Frederick News Post on October 20.

[http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/education/learning\\_and\\_programs/success-crew-working-to-make-a-connection-at-catoctin-furnace/article\\_21852650-98a2-572d-847d-b75ddb99ad97.html](http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/education/learning_and_programs/success-crew-working-to-make-a-connection-at-catoctin-furnace/article_21852650-98a2-572d-847d-b75ddb99ad97.html)

## From the Desk of the President, Jim Robbins

SUCCESS is off to a great start again this year. We are working on a trail that will go from the Catoctin Furnace to the Renner Cemetery. This was the resting place for the slaves that worked at the furnace. Our first phase of work is to create a trail to the Shaffer House and the second phase will be to finish the trail to the Cemetery. We have 4 youth working on the trail and they are doing an outstanding job clearing brush, logs and trash from the area.

This summer Debbie Mills and her crew had a summer program called *Every Kid In the Park (EKIP)* with a grant from the National Park Foundation for forty three 4<sup>th</sup> graders and enough money to bring an additional 1,000+ youth to the Catoctin Mountain Park for a day to enjoy and learn about the park in addition to working on part of the *Fitting the Pieces Together* program of Frederick County Public Schools. We have also received the EKIP Grant for the 2016-2017 year.

On August 27, 2016 we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National Park Service with a Centennial Extravaganza at Green Top in the Catoctin Mountain Park. It was a great day with music, crafts, Outdoor School Reunion, friends groups with the park (Boy Scouts, The League for People with Disabilities) and about 400 guests. It was a great day for the park and a chance to listen to talks about the history of the mountain. The Catoctin Mountain Park will turn 80 on November 14, 2016.

New items from CFA:

- We have welcomed three new board members – Mel Poole, Debbie Mills, and Kathy Byrne.
- The Board has changed their meeting time to every other month starting with October and the time will be 4:00pm (meeting months are December – February – April – June – August and October).

We are always looking for membership to help us grow and to help us with projects. We understand that everyone's time is valuable and we promise that any time that you can give us will be rewarding. Think about spending some time with us and remember to visit your mountains.

## Calendar of Events 2016-2017

October 26	Board Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
November 14	Catoctin Mountain Park 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday
December 21	CFA Christmas Party at Lewis property
December 28	Board Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
February 22, 2017	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
April 26	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
June 28	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
August 23	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
October 25	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
December 21	CFA Christmas Party at Lewis property

# Catoctin Mountain Park sees 10-fold increase in seedling regeneration following deer management operations



By Lindsey Donaldson

Seven years ago the deer herd at Catoctin Mountain Park was so large that the consumption of vegetation was inhibiting the growth of native vegetation and negatively impacting other wildlife species. A Deer Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement was finalized in 2009 to support forest regeneration and provide for the long-term protection, conservation and restoration of native species and cultural landscapes. Since 2010, when deer management operations began in the park, the herd has been reduced to the target density of 15-20 deer per square mile, and there has been a 10-fold increase in regeneration of native seedlings. In addition, more than 30,800 pounds of venison have been donated to local food banks.

In order to maintain the deer population at the target density, the eighth season of deer reduction will be carried out this fall in accordance with Catoctin's White-tailed Deer Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement. Some areas of Catoctin Mountain Park will be closed intermittently to visitors November 14-17 and December 5-8, in order to facilitate deer management operations. All closed areas, roads and trails will be clearly posted and closures will remain in effect for short periods of time. Closures also will be announced on the park website at least 24 hours in advance.



*Before deer management began, this vegetation monitoring plot showed no sign of seedling regeneration. NPS Photo*



*Six years after deer management began, young trees were present in the same vegetation monitoring plot. NPS Photo*

## Catoctin Mountain Park to remove hazardous trees from park

Catoctin Mountain Park has contracted with Excel Tree Experts from Jessup, MD to remove and/or trim approximately 300 hazardous trees throughout the park. The first stage of operations will focus on hazardous trees along roadways, and then removal will begin in the camp areas. The tree work will continue intermittently through December and may result in periodic lane closures along Park roads and periodic closures of parking lots. As work is being completed near roadways, flagmen will direct traffic around the operations. A hazardous tree is one that has the potential to threaten people or resources. Trees along the trails will remain the responsibility of park staff and volunteers. If visitors see a tree that may be a hazard to others, they are encouraged to report it at the Visitor Center at 301-663-9388.



# Catoctin Mountain Park Happenings

By Peggie Gaul

Through our partnership with CFA, by November 2 we will have hosted over 1000 fourth graders at Chestnut Picnic Area with engaging activities that help the children understand plant and animal classification - in real life. A big thanks to Debbie Mills for organizing all the logistics for the field trips. We are working to get FREE Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) passes to area 4th graders. These passes will admit the 4th grade student and his or her family, including up to three adults, into national parks and other federal recreation areas for free until August 31, 2017. If anyone has a 4th grader or knows one, they can print a voucher at <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/>. If they bring their voucher to the visitor center we will issue them a FREE Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) pass valued at \$80.\*

The garden in front of the visitor center that is maintained by park volunteer Katrinka Westendorf, was recently designated as an official pollinator friendly garden with Million Pollinator Gardens. More information is available at this link: <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/MPGN-Customizable-OneSheet.pdf>

Katrinka will be working with Lindsey Donaldsen to move some of the plants to Park Headquarters which will expand our pollinator garden resources.

Fall Color Walks are being offered this month (October 22, and 23). Locations and times are posted on our website.

Orienteering classes are being offered to the public on November 5, 6, 12, and 13. There is still space available on the 12th and 13th. Interested individuals can call the visitor center to sign up.

Eight Eagle Scout projects were completed in the park this fiscal year. They include:

- Extending the handrail at the sawmill exhibit to facilitate a future project that will make the trail accessible to individuals with sight impairments
- Placing new signage on the Hog Rock Nature Trail
- Rehabbing the trail to Cunningham Falls
- Placing new directional signs on the trails between the Visitor's Center (VC), Chimney Rock, and Lewis Property,
- Building a new shelter/roof for the whiskey still
- Building a new bridge at the Lewis property
- Building and installing bulletin boards in the Greentop cabins
- Campsite repairs at Owens Creek Campground

Another Eagle Scout project to create a kids discovery room in the VC will be completed this winter.

A Teacher Ranger and a teacher volunteer developed 7th grade science curriculum that will get students into the park and learning science on the trails. We will be applying for a grant to fund the transportation for this program.

\*Note: Cunningham Falls State Park also accepts the EKIP pass.

# **FREDERICK COUNTY'S MOST SCENIC 5K**

**The 2nd Annual**

**FRIENDS 5K**

**FUN RUN/WALK and TOT TROT**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016**



**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/2016-10-30>**

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



## **Cunningham Falls 5K Run: Proceeds to help Preserve Our Local History**

The Catoctin Furnace Iron Master's Ruins is listed on the National Registry of Historical Places, and as such it is considered a national treasure. The original Manor House was a two-story structure and was later updated with additions to the West and North sides of the building. At the center of activity was the furnace itself and just to the North overlooking this activity was the Manor House where the Iron Master would have resided. The grandeur and opulence of this dwelling were meant to impress and to entertain guests. It is among one of the missions of the Maryland Park Service to preserve this structure for future generations. Please join us at the 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk and Tot Trot on Oct. 30th 2016. For more details, go to The Friends of Cunningham Falls & Gambrill website: [CunninghamGambrill.org](http://CunninghamGambrill.org) and click on "Events."

## Catoctin Furnace By Jacob Doyle



The history of Catoctin Furnace represents in microcosm the history of the Industrial Revolution in America. From 1776 to 1903 different iron companies mined the rich ore banks near Catoctin Mountain, smelted it in furnaces, and cast both raw pig iron and iron implements of every description. The furnace was the center of a community that was made up of the people who worked there and those who oversaw the furnace operations. Slave labor was first used during the early days of the operation and later was replaced by immigrant labor. The Iron Master, whose job it was to oversee all operations of the furnace, lived in the house whose ruins are still located at the site. The Iron Master's House was originally built in 1781.

The Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks are currently undertaking the task of stabilizing the ruins of the Iron Master's House to preserve this piece of Frederick County history for future generations. The work is currently being done by Gruber-Lattimer, a company that specializes in masonry restoration. This was last completed in 1996. The Friends group is applying for grants to cover the cost of the restoration as no state funds are being used directly in the project. As noted on the preceding page, The Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks are hosting a 5K race on October 30<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for the stabilization.

## Volunteer Appreciation Open House By Alicia Norris



Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks will host a Volunteer Appreciation Open House at the park's Visitor Center on December 10th to honor our volunteer's dedication and support. This is also an opportunity for partners to garner support and prospective volunteers to rub elbows with some of the most active organizations in public lands. For more information contact Ranger Alicia Norris at [alicia.norris@maryland.gov](mailto:alicia.norris@maryland.gov). Hope to see you there!

## CFA Board Member Takes Leadership Position with Statewide Alliance

Board member Mel Poole attended the Friends of State Parks Gathering in Wekiva Springs State Park, FL on October 4-6. In addition to discussions on fundraising, trails, and intergovernmental relations, participants had an opportunity to execute the Florida State Parks hurricane evacuation plan when Hurricane Matthew showed up a little earlier than expected.

Mel has also been elected as the new Vice President for the Friends of Maryland State Parks, a statewide alliance of friends groups. You can visit their website at <http://www.friendsofmdparks.org/>



**Preserving, Protecting, Enhancing & Advocating for our Parks**

# Centennial Extravaganza Commemorates 100 Years of the National Park Service

By Debbie Mills

Anniversaries are best when shared with families and friends, and the National Park Service (NPS) 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was no exception. Multiple generations of the extended Catoctin Mountain Park family, including two former Superintendents, retired and current Catoctin Mountain Park Staff and hundreds of park supporters and volunteers gathered to celebrate this special occasion at Camp Greentop on Saturday, August 27.

The Centennial Extravaganza was the first major event produced by the Catoctin Mountain Park/Catoctin Forest Alliance partnership. Realizing that vacancies caused by recent retirements limited the ability of park staff to work beyond daily operations, the Catoctin Forest Alliance prepared a proposal for the Centennial event and presented it to Acting Superintendent Ed Wenschoff in April. Camp Greentop was reserved and CFA personnel began contacting potential volunteers for the event that would revisit significant eras in the history of Catoctin Mountain Park.

New Superintendent Rick Slade embraced the concept shortly after assuming his position in May. Catoctin Mountain Park staff, CFA President Jim Robbins and CFA Director of Programs, Debra Mills began meeting for extensive planning in early July. Since parking is limited at Camp Greentop, visitors were shuttled by van from the parking lot at Camp Round Meadow. NPS rangers provided parking direction. Qualified volunteers drove the vans from Round Meadow to Greentop and return. Once at Camp Greentop, visitors were greeted by NPS personnel at the Children's Activity and Orientation tent. Continuous activities and displays included: the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick County Outdoor School Reunion, interactive demonstrations by multiple local Boy Scout Troops, a pictorial historical display presented by the League for People with Disabilities and C. Paul Smith's interactive rock collection.

Additional exhibits were provided by Cunningham Falls State Park, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, John Kinnard and the Thurmont Historical Society, the Catoctin Forest Alliance Artist in Residence Program and John Wyson, illustrator of the upcoming CFA children's book, *The Princess and her Mittens*. Displays and demonstrations of blacksmithing, pottery making and broom making were provided by volunteer craft artisans. The Thurmont Ambulance Squad and Venturing Crew 270 were available to provide Emergency Medical Services.

Programming held at designated times throughout the day included ranger led hikes and fly-casting demonstrations. Ranger Peggie Gaul told the history of the National Park Service during a morning Rec Hall session. Former Outdoor School Teacher, Avadna Coghill retold Outdoor School stories, including Ken the War Dog, providing a fitting transition to retired Superintendent Mel Poole's presentation about secret Office of Strategic Service operations at Camp Greentop during World War II.

The center stage, provided by D. L. George and Son, was the focal point for outdoor activities throughout the day. Old timey musicians, Claude Martin and Erica Snow, entertained the audience with violin and guitar music and vocals. While most visitors relaxed on blankets, a few were spotted dancing on the lawn. Catoctin Forest Alliance President Jim Robbins emceed the noon ceremony opened by an inspiring version of our National Anthem sung by Raeann Robisch.

Superintendent Rick Slade launched Catoctin Mountain Park into the National Park Service Second Century with inspiring words thanking current park supporters and Centennial Extravaganza participants. Mr. Slade acknowledged the importance of park partners and welcomed new friends to join the Catoctin Mountain Park family. The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of the painting, "Catoctin Cool," by artist Louise Philips as a special gift to Catoctin Mountain Park.

Stay tuned for an even more exciting Centennial +1 coming in 2017.

## Photos from the Centennial Extravaganza



*Franklin Bison, depicted by Protection Ranger Tanachy Bruhn, tests his skill at crossing the rope bridge built by the Boy Scouts.*



*Jim Robbins and Linda Sundergill with Artist in Residence art exhibit*



SUCCESS student Raeann Robisch sings the National Anthem.



Boy Scout Ship 37 with one of their sail boats

**Use the link below to view a video of the Centennial Extravaganza**  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGqWUZ8fxP1RW1fS2RNZUpNaW8/view>

# Camp CATOCTIN Reaches over 1,000 Students for Fall Field Trips

By Debbie Mills

After reaching 43 students for the Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp program, the Catoctin Forest Alliance expanded its educational programming to include one day Fall Field Trips for Frederick County Schools. Ten schools representing 1016 students answered the call for participation. Three hundred seventy five of these children have been served with the remainder scheduled for a field trip on or before November 4, 2016

Support from Frederick County Public School Outdoor School Principal Brett Querry, gave credibility to the program and helped CFA reach all Frederick County fourth grade science teachers. Mr. Querry provided Frederick County Curriculum Standards and suggested Catoctin Mountain Park feedback from multiple teachers indicated that fall is an ideal time to compliment the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classifications Unit with field trip activities at Catoctin Mountain Park. Activities during the field trips use a CFA developed lesson plan featuring a Forensic Lab encouraging students to use powers of observation to classify specimens of living things, a Tree ID walk demonstrating multiple ways to classify trees and a Scavenger Hunt allowing students to locate, photograph or sketch living things and then classify them back at school as a post visit activity. Students arrive at Chestnut Picnic Area at approximately 10:00 a.m., participate in the three activity rotations, eat lunch and return to school by 2:00 p.m.

No field trip to a National Park Service area would be complete without interaction with Park Rangers. The interpretive staff at Catoctin Mountain Park honors this tradition through interpreters that lead the Forensic Lab rotation on every field trip. Experienced educators recruited by CFA provide the expertise for Tree ID and Scavenger Hunt rotations. Volunteers to date include retired NPS Park Rangers and public school administrators. Group size ranges from 50 to 150 students requiring 2-6 park staff and volunteers at every session.

Transportation for fall field trips is funded through the National Park Foundation Every Kid in a Park grant program awarded to Catoctin Mountain Park. Field trips are provided without charge to the students or participating schools. The Catoctin Forest Alliance provides logistical arrangements for the program and administers grant requirements in partnership with Catoctin Mountain Park. Below is the link to the article and photos from the summer camp that appeared in the Frederick News Post.

[http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/education/camp-catoctin-provides-week-of-nature-education-for-fourth-graders/article\\_cb66f3b8-a401-5867-bfe6-41d3d3d0cd30.html](http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/education/camp-catoctin-provides-week-of-nature-education-for-fourth-graders/article_cb66f3b8-a401-5867-bfe6-41d3d3d0cd30.html)



Students listening to CFSP Ranger Mark Spurrier during Camp Catoctin

## Artist Louise Phillips Donates “Catoctin Cool” By Debbie Mills

Washington, D. C. writer/ artist Louise Phillips has donated her original painting, “Catoctin Cool,” to the Catoctin Forest Alliance. The painting is one in a series of over 20 similar paintings Ms. Phillips has painted and donated to parks throughout the National Park System as a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday present to the National Parks.



Ms. Phillips began her career as a kindergarten teacher. She is passionate about connecting youth to the earth through art. Louise wrote the poem, “Earth Anthem.” that has been set to music and is being performed by children’s groups nationwide.

“Catoctin Cool,” was unveiled by Superintendent Rick Slade during the noon ceremony at the Centennial Extravaganza. The colorful depiction of Catoctin Mountain Park resources will be displayed at Catoctin Mountain Park and in future Artist in Residence exhibits.

*Artist Louise Phillips left with Debbie Mills and “Catoctin Cool”*

## Artist in Residence Program



In May we were fortunate to have Joanna Barnum as our Artist in Residence. Joanna is a watercolorist from Abingdon, MD. She presented her donated piece to CFA at the Centennial Extravaganza. It is entitled “Lichen and Dappled Light” and pictured at left with Joanna.

In September Rebecca Flis from South Glen Falls, NY came to Catoctin Mountain Park to do 3-dimensional art inspired by nature. She did a program for the public at the park Visitor’s Center and had the participants use moldable clay to recreate forms in nature.



*Rebecca Flis  
cast metal artist*

Applications for the Artist in Residence program will open again in November with a deadline to apply by February 15. Selected artists will be notified by mid-March. Visit our website <http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org> for application forms.

## Here's your chance to own a piece of Catoctin Mountain Park history.

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Park Service, the Catoctin Forest Alliance has made a Centennial Quilt. It celebrates the anniversary and recognizes the many park partners who help make Catoctin Mountain Park so special.

The quilt is being raffled off and funds will be used to bring children into Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park for field trips and day camps.

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00  
Drawing date: December 21, 2016

Tickets can be purchased online at  
[www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)



# 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 2016-2017. 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 \$20 per person or \$30 per couple.

**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 \_\_\_\_

Fundraising \_\_\_\_

Information Technology \_\_\_\_

Membership \_\_\_\_

Artist in Residence \_\_\_\_

Finance \_\_\_\_

Conservation/Education \_\_\_\_

Marketing/Publicity \_\_\_\_

Visit our new website at [www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)