



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 14 No.2

May 2024

Editor: Linda Sundergill

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

A Note from our President, Jim Robbins

Spring is here and summer is on its way. The birth of the forest with all the rain is a great time to watch the transformation of the forest. With the opening of Rt. 77 the mountain will again be alive with many visitors eagerly wanting to hike trails, take in the wonderful views, smells of the forest and vistas. Please stay safe as you do all these things.

Catoctin Forest Alliance, has been working hard on projects throughout the Catoctin Mountains and beyond. Read in this newsletter about all the projects that we have been doing.

Amish Projects

For the 12th year of service, the Amish from Nappanee, IN arrived on March 4, 2024 for a month of working in Catoctin Mountain Park and at ThorpeWood. The projects included building a hoop structure in the lumber yard, replacing seven roofs (taking cedar shakes off and replacing with new cedar shakes), replacing a floor on a flatbed trailer, assembling a portable sawmill and mounting it on the trailer, helping to shred fallen branches along Park Central and cleaning up around Round Meadow. The last week they worked on projects at ThorpeWood and built a bridge by and over a creek, finished the barn lining with old timber, made signs and built a book stand.



New tin roof on cabin at ThorpeWood



New bridge at ThorpeWood. Notice the bent wood railing.

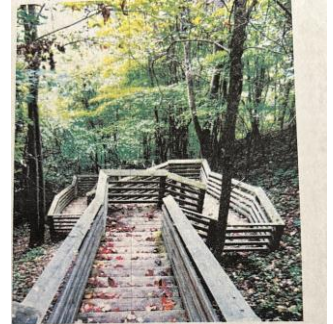
We not only work with the Amish group from Nappanee, IN but there are three other Amish groups we coordinate. During March we also had a group from Monta Vista, CO. This was the first year for this group and they worked on projects at Fort Union, New Mexico. They replaced picket fencing, worked on two old buildings and did a number of small projects.

This was also the first year for an Amish group from Fort Wayne, IN. This group worked at New River Gorge National Park & Preserve in West Virginia.



Thurmond Depot. Thurmond was a bustling coal town in the early 1900's and is still a stop on the Amtrack Cardinal line. The Amish helped to restore, replace, and paint the siding on the station.

Restoration of the Kaymoor Steps—a set of 821 wooden steps that descend more than a mile into the New River Gorge. All materials had to be hand carried.



Our 4th Amish group was from Oden, IN in southern Indiana and for the 6th year they have been working at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in Middlesboro, Kentucky. They work at an historical site called Hensley Settlement. This settlement was established in 1903 by Burton Hensley, Sr. on Brush Mountain high in the Cumberland Mountain Range. This location is only accessible by 4-wheel drive vehicles (Park tours only) and takes about an hour to get to the top. The characteristics of early pioneer life were present and kept alive at Hensley Settlement. This would become a unique settlement. They were self-sufficient at a time when the rest of the nation's people were relying on each other for their needs. As a result of the Hensley's and Gibbon's efforts, an isolated community of rural Appalachia survived until the last inhabitant, Sherman Hensley, left in 1951.



Henhouse boxes and roof repaired



School House with outhouse to left (roof repair)



House with half chimney



House where Sherman Hensley, last resident of Hensley Settlement lived from 1903 to 1951

SUCCESS YOUTH

All four of the SUCCESS youth graduated this year. I had one of the youths for three years and the others for two years. Over the years they have done many projects for Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls & Gambrill State Park. What a wonderful group of young adults. I wish them the best in future endeavors.

As always, we can use your support in time and/or dollars to help these and other programs continue in our Parks. Please think of us when making donations this year. If you have any questions about CFA, our programs or questions in general, please visit our web site (www.catoctinforestalliance.org) or you can reach me, Jim Robbins at jimrobbins@comcast.net of 301-693-9703).



SUCCESS students and mentor: Michael Williams, Fidel Henriquez, Mr. Jim Robbins, Luis Aguayo and James White

A Note from Shelley Miller, CFA Fundraising and Membership Chairman

Hello CFA Family,

As you always hear me say, “If you have already renewed your membership with CFA, thank you!” Membership enrollment has a positive impact on many levels supporting the programs of CFA. Joining or membership renewal is easy. Simply go to the CFA website, www.catoctinforestalliance.org to join or renew. Or, you may send the filled-out newsletter membership page to the CFA PO Box 411 Thurmont MD 21788 with a check made out to CFA. Or you may contact me directly (Shellbio@aol.com) for assistance. 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 be a part of them!



In retrospect:



Ranger Carrie Andresen-Strawn presents to the Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association (FCRSPA)

Thank you to Carrie Andresen-Strawn from the National Park Service who presented an informative talk and slide show to the Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association (FCRSPA) at their May luncheon at Schroyer’s Tavern at Maryland National Golf Club. Ranger Carrie’s presentation focused on the history of the parks, trails and opportunities to explore, the parks’ accessibility, free and fee-based National Park passes, and volunteer opportunities available in the parks. The presentation was enjoyed by all! Thank you and great job Carrie!



Photos of Carrie Andresen-Strawn’s presentation for the Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association



The second annual CFA Family Funfest took place at the Gambrill State Park Tea Room on Wednesday, May 8. Artwork from the Artists in Residence (AIR) programs was on display for all to enjoy. Activities included creating Mother’s Day cards to take home. And, of course, there were lots of delicious refreshments. Below is a glimpse into the evening. Thank you for all who participated to make this a memorable event. And a special thank you to Debbie Mills and Michael Mills for hosting the Mother’s Day card making table.



From left to right: Katrinka W., Kathy B., and Jim R. enjoy socializing.



To the right Tammy F. enjoys some of the refreshments donated by



Debbie Mills and her son, Michael, assist Ranger Stacey in card making.



Great fun resulting in artful cards.



Thank you to Wegman's for donating the wonderful refreshments for the participants of this event. The refreshments were delicious and enjoyed by all.

Present and future opportunities:



Want to Volunteer for the Catoctin Mountain Park (CMP) Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) fourth grade field trips?

CFA's support of the Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) program at Catoctin Mountain Park remains a long standing one. Do you like being outdoors, in the fresh air, getting some exercise in a fun learning environment? Anyone interested in volunteering with the EKO fourth grade field trips please contact Ranger Carrie Andresen-Strawn at Catoctin Mountain Park. This is a wonderful time sharing the beautiful park with the students, teachers, and chaperones. As Carrie says, "It's always a great day to be in the park! As I volunteer, I find joy in sharing information with others and I always learn from others too!" Hope to see you at the EKO field trips! If you are interested in any of these opportunities at Cunningham Falls State Park (FCPS) please contact:

Carrie Andresen-Strawn (she/her/hers), Park Ranger & Education Coordinator
 Catoctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, MD 21788
Carrie_Andresen@nps.gov, 301.663.9388 (office) OR 301.663.9399 (office)



Want to Volunteer in the Cunningham Falls State Park (CFSP) Aviary and Visitor Center and more?

Invasive weed pulls:

- If you enjoy being in the woods, solitude and don't mind getting dirty, this is for you. The park has several scheduled pulls each month through the spring, summer and fall. We focus on different species based on time of year and hold them weekdays and weekends to accommodate varied schedules. Registration preferred so a proper number of tools are brought and specific instructions provided. There will be several scheduled in June.

Manor Area Visitor Center/William Houck Nature Center staffing:

- Do you enjoy administrative and inside work with the public? Currently our William Houck Nature Center and Area is closed but is anticipated to reopen hopefully by June. With that said, both buildings on weekends and holidays from April-October from 10am-2pm are staffed by volunteers when possible. There is room to expand that based on volunteer availability. This task involves opening and closing the building and while open, answering park visitor questions such as, where are the restrooms? How do I find the falls? Where should I hike? Where are the campgrounds? What kind of animals live in Maryland? If you enjoy sharing your knowledge of the park with others and talking to the public or are ready to learn, this is the right spot for you.

Trash pick-up:

- If you want immediate gratification of seeing the work you've done and enjoy solitude and making your own schedule, this is a good fit. Year round there are areas to pick trash in the park. Once you're trained on where to pick and find supplies for picking, the when, where and for how long is up to you.

Animal Care:

- Do you love animals and cleaning and have attention to detail? The park's 17 animal ambassadors including 10 reptiles (snakes and turtles) and 7 birds of prey (owls, hawks and an eagle) require daily cleaning of enclosures and feeding. This involves bending, stooping, scrubbing, cutting up rodents and fish, cleaning up animal guts and poo in all weather conditions. A one-year commitment is required due to the training that staff have to invest, as well as a weekly shift which is generally 3-4 hours of work. It must be conducted during daylight hours. Current shifts open

would be either Saturday, Sunday, Friday. If you're interested but those days don't work for you, training as a substitute would be considered. Resume required with interview as well as minimum age of 18+.

Gardening:

- In a similar vein as the invasive weed pulls, this involves weeding various gardens but is flexible on day, time and location. This is a great position for being in nature and having solitude while working at your own pace. Once you're trained on areas to maintain, where to get supplies and the goal for that area, you can pick and choose when to volunteer.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities at Cunningham Falls State Park (FCPS) please contact:

Claudia Padilla

Lead Park Ranger, Cunningham Falls & Gambrill State Parks, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
14039 Catoctin Hollow Rd., Thurmont, MD 21788
(301) 271-7574 (main), (301) 271-3676 (office), claudia.padilla@maryland.gov

******Upcoming Raffle Event******

The **CFA RAFFLE** you have been waiting for is here! The **CFA Crab/Seafood Raffle 2024** event has begun! This raffle event will run all the way up until the time of the drawing which is going to be on Labor Day weekend 2024. More information will be coming about that. Winners need not be present to win. The winner of the **GRAND PRIZE (A BUSHEL OF CRABS FROM LIBERTY ROAD SEAFOOD!)** will receive a coupon allowing him/her to pre-order a full bushel of crabs (absolutely free). The second prize winner will receive gift cards for Dutch's Daughter (\$100), and the third prize winner will receive a gift card to Avery's (\$50).

This raffle event has great potential for a productive CFA educational fund raiser if we all try our best to promote it! Raffle tickets are \$10 a piece or 3 for \$20 (best deal!). Raffle tickets make **GREAT** gifts (graduate, Father's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, treasured friendships...). Get yours today! Looking forward to a **WONDER**-full fund raiser! Contact any board member or Shelley (Shellbio@aol.com or 301-471-7434) to get your ticket(s) for a chance to win one of these great prizes. Lots of opportunities to win! Great fun! 😊



CFA CRAB/SEAFOOD RAFFLE 2024
Grand Prize is a Bushel of Crabs from Liberty Road Seafood (Frederick, MD)

1 ticket \$10
3 tickets for \$20

Drawing to be held on Labor Day weekend 2024

2nd Place is \$100 from Dutch's Daughter (Frederick, MD)

3rd Place is \$50 from Avery's Seafood (Frederick, MD)

CATOCTIN FOREST ALLIANCE

Proceeds benefit CFA educational programs including the Field Trip Program, SUCCESS, AIR, Native Pollinator Gardens and more...

CFA remains a vital group of caring individuals who are making a positive impact in our community. Please consider being an active part of this incredible service organization by joining or renewing your membership today! Remember, you may go to the CFA website, www.catoctinforestalliance.org, to join or renew. Or, you may send the filled-out newsletter membership page to the CFA PO Box (CFA PO Box 411 Thurmont, MD 21788) with a check made out to CFA.

Artist in Residence by Linda Sundergill, AIR Chairman



Two Artists in Residence are arriving in September

- **Rachel Wojnar** will be in residence at Cunningham Falls State Park September 8-22, 2024. Rachel is a multimedia artist and educator from Cumberland, Maryland. Their practice is focused on themes of ecological entanglement, biology, and naturalism as they relate to human experiences of community, transformation, and healing. Using both traditional media and raw natural material, they highlight ecological anecdotes as tools for understanding, specifically recognizing parallels between systemic abuse of the environment and of women, trans, and queer bodies. They hold a BA in Art and Art History from McDaniel College and an Interdisciplinary MFA from Hartford Art School. Rachel has studied art and ecology through place-based experiences across the US, Mexico, and Ireland, and has exhibited in the US and Ireland.
- **Reagan Herndon** will be in residence at Catoctin Mountain Park September 5-26, 2024. She is a visual artist currently living in Raleigh, NC. She works mainly with acrylic paint, but enjoys exploring other mediums such as wood, mixed media, and digital techniques. After graduating from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC with a BFA in painting and drawing she started working as a concept artist designing environments for previously unheard-of worlds. This passion has continued in her personal works as she focuses on themes of life and nature and blend them with surreal imagination. She takes the realistic natural elements around us and exaggerates their color and shape to create fascinating compositions to give the audience new but familiar worlds to explore. She uses her work to get the viewers' attention and inspire them to look at the unique life and landscapes we have all around us in a new way.
- **Joint Presentation at the Delaplaine Arts Center September 13, 2024**
Art at Noon at The Delaplaine Arts Center will feature Rachel Wojnar and Regan Herndon as they discuss their history as artists and their work as Artists in Residence in the Catoctin Mountains. The program will last 20-30 minutes and is open to the public. The Delaplaine Arts Center is located at 40 S. Carroll St., Frederick, MD 21701.

Jeffrey Lockwood was our Artist in Residence in May 2023. He is a writer and a PhD in entomology. Here is a description of his new project:

- **The Project and Product**

The environmental challenge that I engage is: “How can we, as visitors to protected lands, engage authentically, meaningfully, and ethically with the natural world given our everyday experiences with a fast-paced, technological framework?” The answer to this question in my book takes the form of philosophically compelling, intellectually intriguing, and aesthetically evocative reflections.

Less is More: Enchantingly Brief and Evocatively Deep Reflections from America's National Parks, involves a somewhat unusual format that engages readers with an interest in the natural world—and the National Parks, in particular. Over the last 11 years, I have been an artist/writer-in-residence at 15 National Parks, Seashores, Lakeshores, Monuments, and Battlefields across the country. At each location, I crafted a set of meditations while imposing a relevant “rule” as to the number of words. For example, the shortest pieces are precisely six words from Mesa Verde NP, reflecting the six pilasters around the circumference of a

kiva; the longest are exactly 271 words, honoring the number of Black men and women who died laboring at the iron furnaces fueled by the timber from Catoctin Mountain Park. The result is a collection of “chapters” organized into thematic sections. Each entry begins with a short, essay-like explanation of the constraint and theme, accompanied by a black-and-white photograph, followed by short reflections. The book will be ~200 pages with ~5 pages after each section for an element called “Your Turn” which provides evocative thinking/feeling writing prompts and space for the reader to draft their own short works.

My short-form pieces, which occupy a literary space amidst prose poetry, lyric essay and playful aphorism, are ideally suited for those spending time outdoors and seeking a few minutes of reflection to deepen their experience. Using just a few words draws the reader into becoming a co-creator, through a kind of individualized gestalt that “fills in” what is unsaid and invites a continuing contemplation of meaning.

Nancy Arbuthnot was our virtual Artist in Residence in 2019 during COVID. She was invited back in 2020 for an actual residency in Catoctin Mountain Park in 2020. Nancy is a Professor Emerita at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., where she taught for 29 years. She recently did a podcast that you can listen to using the link below.

https://www.gracecavalieri.com/poetLaureates/featuredpoet_nancyarbuthnot.html .

The podcast is done as part of the Poetry and Literature Center at the Library of Congress “Interviews with US Poets Laureate”. Nancy reads some of her poems and is interviewed about her life and how that relates to her work.

Carlos Reyes was our poet Artist in Residence in the Fall of 2018. He shares some more of his poems written in 2023.

TRESPASSERS

On the way up to Gold Mountain Lookout
at the edge of the road, on his hind legs feasting
on blackberries the biggest black bear I’ve
ever seen eyes us, his look demands what
are you doing here in my garden?

We stop the pickup when with
practiced nonchalance
of one who owns the place
he drops down on all fours
lumbers up a rise, stands
up and stares us down.

We’re driving through land
my work partner’s community
the Colville yet holds. He
scratches his chin, gives me a look,
with a twinkle muses
“Bear must think we’re trespassers.”

IN THE TWO ROOM SCHOOL

We memorized poems in the heat of a wood furnace:
Under the spreading chestnut tree, the village smithy stands...
 It rang false, was nothing like my grandfather's forge.

We believed little our teacher told us.
 The earthquake that rattled our school
 knocking a few bricks from the chimney
 was a greater power's judgement

on an hysterical teacher who in her panic
 herded us down a shakey building's wooden stairs
 to recess in a muddy field we called the playground.

IN THE SCHOOLYARD

Of our up and down two room schoolhouse
 there were no oak trees for shade, no grass lawn.
 There was mud in winter and spring, dust in the fall
 a sopping American flag waving over it all.

We looked out the window at the weeping
 willow by the pond. The valley had little else
 but high weeds, Scotch thistle along the creek,
 Queen Anne's lace rattling in the southwest breeze.

March arctic storms brought snow for weeks.

FROM THE BACKPORCH

He's washing his hands
 before he eats (cute, but razor

sharp claws— ask any dog, cat).
 But he will wash them

Pandemic or not with nothing at all
 going through all the motions

or laves them with dirt or dust
 if no water is nearby.

Another possibility:
 the raccoon prays

before each meal
 and after.

Dave Moreland, a local artist and educator has been on the CFA Artist in Residence jury selection panel for many years. He is having an exhibit of his work at FCC’s Mary Condon Hodgson Art Gallery June 8-July 10, 2024. Hope you can attend.

Gallery Transfigurations

Dave Moreland

Mixed Media Artworks

The Mary Condon Hodgson Art Gallery

June 8 - July 10, 2024

Opening Reception - Saturday, June 8, 5pm – 7pm



The Mary Condon Hodgson Art Gallery, Visual and Performing Arts Center, Frederick Community College, 7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD 21702
 Gallery Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:30am – 9:00pm; Friday, 9:30am – 5:00pm and Saturday, 9:30am – 3:30pm.
 Contact: Wendell Poindexter, 301.846.2513 Contact: Dave Moreland, dmoreland44@gmail.com.

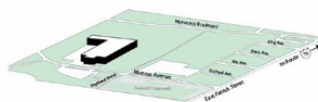


Campus Map

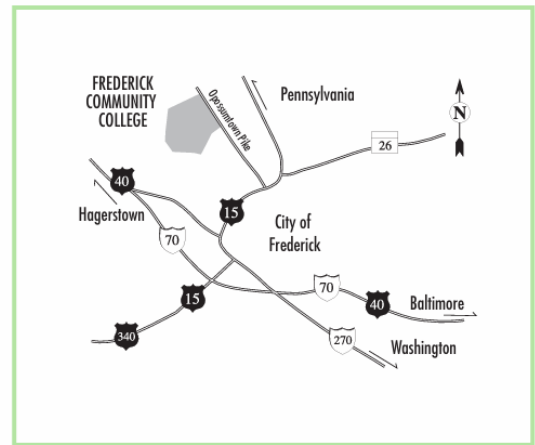
7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD 21702
 College Information Center 301.846.2400



- FCC is implementing building name changes as part of a campus signage project. Campus directional signage will be replaced by 2025. Names will not be placed on buildings.
- Administration Hall (Hague) Hall (A)**
 Adult Services, Center for Students with Disabilities, Veterans Services, Adult Basic Education (ABE), Student Center Administration Office
 - Academic Hall (Broadway) Hall (B)**
 Math Learning Center, Faculty Offices, Classroom
 - Science Technology Hall (Catoctin) Hall (C)**
 Science Labs, Faculty Offices, Classroom
 - Health and Wellness Center (D)**
 Operations, Weight Room, Counseling, Athletics, Faculty Office, Locker Room
 - Conference Center (E)**
 Large and Small Meeting Rooms, Technology Lab, Continuing Education & Member Development
 - Visual & Performing Arts Center (F)**
 J&K Theater, W&J Art Gallery, Studio/Theater, Music Classrooms & Practice Rooms, Art Classroom, Music Classroom & Lab, Faculty Office
 - Administrative Services Center (G) Hall (G)**
 Fiscal Services, Purchasing, Fiscal Services, IT Services, Other Administrative Offices
 - Student Center (H)**
 Collegewide Services, Institutional Student Services Office, Social & Center for Student Engagement, Student Government, Proctoring, Health Care, Counseling & Support, Tutoring Services, Health Offices, Support Services
 - Environmental Services Building (Jefferson) Hall (J)**
 Institute Center, Admissions, Registration Records, Student Accounts, Counseling & Advising, Career Center & Transfer Center, Financial Aid, Career Learning Support Office
 - Monroe-Alan Viles Center (K)**
 - Library Building (Kingman) Hall (K)**
 Library & Allied Health Learning Labs, Testing Center, Writing Center, J&K Center for Adult Language Lab, Faculty Offices, Classroom, Student Lounge
 - Carl & Norma Miller Children's Center (L) (formerly K)**
 Child Care Center
 - Plant Operations (Currenly) Hall (L)**
 - Swanwick Hall (M)**
 Unlabeled



Monroe Center
 Hall (K) Visual, Culinary Arts & Hospitality, CSE/Menstruation Center, Continuing Education, Health Care, Career Programs, Administrative Offices



"Frederick Community College prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, creed, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, national origin, race, religious affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status in its activities, admissions, educational program, and employment.

Frederick Community College makes every effort to accommodate individuals with disabilities for College-sponsored events and programs. If you have accommodation needs or questions, please call 301-846-2408. To request a sign language interpreter, please visit <http://fcc-interpreting.genbook.com>. If you have interpreting related questions, please email interpreting@frederick.edu. Sign Language interpreters will not be automatically provided for College-sponsored events without a request for services. To guarantee accommodations, requests must be made at least five workdays in advance of scheduled event.

If your request pertains to accessible transportation for a College-sponsored trip, please submit your request at least 21 calendar days in advance. Requests made less than 21 calendar days in advance may not be able to be guaranteed."

Many Thanks to our Donors



Mighty Oak Level

- **Carroll Children's Center**
- **Wagester Family of Woodsboro, Md.**

Sapling Level

- **Community Foundation of Frederick**
- **Exelon Corporation**

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

- **Acorn** up to \$99
- **Seedling** \$100- 499.99
- **Sapling** \$500-999.99
- **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** with notation "**Membership**" to the address below. The yearly membership dues are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple for the period December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024.

You can also join online at <http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org/index.php/join>.

Kathy Byrne
CFA Treasurer
123 Ironmaster Dr.
Thurmont, MD 21788

New members will receive a CFA patch



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