



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 13 No.3

August 2023

Editor: Linda Sundergill

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

Artist in Residence Coming to Cunningham Falls State Park

Cindy Stockton Moore will be the CFA Artist in Residence at Cunningham Falls State Park from September 10-24, 2023. She is a Philadelphia based artist who works with locally foraged, aqueous media to create multimedia animations, works on paper, and site-specific installations. She will be the Artist-in-Residence at Cunningham Falls State Park in September 2023. Solo projects currently on view (2023) include 'an openness to all things lovely' at Glen Foerd and 'Other Absences' at Eastern State Penitentiary. Select 2023 exhibitions include 'Archive of the Air' at Past Present Projects and 'Natures Alchemy' at The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education. Cindy's experimental, often collaborative, videos screen in festivals and exhibitions nationwide and abroad. Her writing on art has appeared in FlashArt, ArtNews, NYArts Magazine, SciArt Magazine, The New York Sun, and Title Magazine in addition to university and web publications.

During her two-week residency, she will be working on-site, outdoors. Programming will include a 'Drawing with Nature Workshop' at Thurmont Regional Library on **September 16th** from 1030a.m. to 1130a.m. During this program, the participants will Visually explore the Library Nature Trail in this hands-on workshop for all-ages. Sketching windfall specimens from the forest trail, participants can experiment with locally foraged inks and charcoal - learning more about the relationship of natural color and the forest ecosystem.



On Saturday **September 23rd**, as part of National Public Lands Day, Cindy will present an invasive ink program in Cunningham Falls State Park as a part of National Public Lands Day. Time to be determined.

Cindy specializes in using foraged inks/charcoal and flip book animations.

Spring Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park

Mr. Jeffrey Lockwood, a writer and PhD in entomology from Laramie, Wyoming, was the Catoctin Forest Alliance Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park May 9-23, 2023.

During his stay in Catoctin Mountain Park, he wrote every day, hiked, and researched. He interacted with visitors to the park and did two public presentations at the Thurmont Library.



Jeffrey Lockwood defining a cinquain during the Children's Workshop

During the Children's Writing Workshop, he guided the children to write 5-line poems called cinquains that require counting syllables. The first line has 2 syllables, the second line 4, third line 6, fourth line 8 and line 5 has 2 syllables. The following is from Mr. Lockwood's writing. *One girl found a rock, named it Boris and wrote: "Boris / you are so old / you sound like a cello / and you taste like fresh, muddy dirt. / Content." A tranquil stone? Indeed.*

During the Adult Writing Workshop, Mr. Lockwood guided the participants to write minute memoirs. Each memoir was to have 6-10 words. He quoted a 6-word story by Ernest Hemingway as an example—"For sale, baby shoes, never used". Each participant was given a topic and 5 minutes to create a memoir. It was a challenging and very enjoyable activity. As each person read their memoir to the group, it was pleasant to see how each was creative and unique.

Each Artist in Residence donates something they created while in residence. Mr. Lockwood donated a written work entitled *The Giving Place*, about the Catoctin Mountain Forest and the Catoctin Furnace. It is a daily reflection of his experience in the park. Each day's work is limited to 271 words *to honor and remember the 271 Black men and women whose blood, sweat, and tears—along with the forest—fueled the furnaces (Mr. Lockwood's words)*. In addition, each piece was catalyzed by a word having the prefix "re-" as Mr. Lockwood perceived the Catoctin Mountain Park to be interwoven with concepts such as repurpose, recover, reincarnate, restore and regret. You can read *The Giving Place* by clicking [HERE](#).

It was always easy to spot Jeffrey in and around the park with his robin's egg blue rental car.



A Note from CFA President, Jim Robbins



Summer is in full swing with high humidity and temperatures. Always carry water in this weather. You might not need it but you might come across someone that would need some. Things are quiet here at Catoctin Forest Alliance but all that changes with August. SUCCESS will be back for the 13th year and the Parks have a list of items for us so we will hit the ground running. We have new uniforms for the youth and adults (see our next newsletter for a few pictures of them).

We have an Artist this year that will be staying in Cunningham Falls State Park at the Manor Area. The program has been part of the National Park for many years. Our next application period will be November, 2023 for 2024. We do have some artwork from prior artist for purchase. Please let us know if you are interested in seeing the works.

The Amish will be back March 4-29, 2023 for projects that the National Park has planned and will keep them busy while they are here. This will be the 12th year that they have been coming to the park for a month of service to the park. They come from Nappanee, IN, each year, by train.

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 (we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit). If you have any questions about C.F.A., 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 or 301-693-9703.



News from Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Park

Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks have a busy schedule of events for the August. Click on the link below for details.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDDNR/bulletins/3653552>

Elizabeth Prongas Memorial



This is the bench that will be placed in Elizabeth's honor.

With the passing of Elizabeth Prongas on April 21, 2018, CFA lost a founding member and a beloved mentor. Elizabeth was widely known as a gifted artist and environmentalist, dedicated to protecting and restoring natural resources. Many people contributed to a memorial fund for Elizabeth and we are finally coming near the completion of the project to honor her. A memorial bench with plaque has been purchased and it will be placed at Harriett Chapel Church in the near future. We are in the phase of contracting for the foundation to support the

bench. Once all is complete, we will have a memorial service at Harriett Chapel (Elizabeth's church) and a notice will be sent out via this newsletter and individually to each donor.

If you have not made a donation for the memorial and would like to do so, it is not too late.

Donations can be sent to:

Catoctin Forest Alliance
Prongas Memorial
PO Box 411
Thurmont, MD 21788

Close up of the plaque on Elizabeth's bench



News from Catoctin Mountain National Park

By Phillip S. Greenwalt, Chief of Interpretation and Education



“I’ve never found time spent amongst nature to be a waste of time.” –anonymous

Summer heat has arrived on the mountain—and I am not talking about the weather—but around Catoctin Mountain Park, especially in the historic blacksmith shop. Thanks to Rachel, the community volunteer ambassador for the park, who was the guiding hand in bringing these demonstrations back for the first time since pre-COVID. Visitors are treated to blacksmith demonstrations by our volunteer blacksmith Don in historic Round Meadow. If that is not warm enough for you, join the park on select Saturday evenings for an engaging campfire chat with a park ranger. Disclaimer:

campfires are optional. Check the park’s website and social media for the dates and times for these and other programs running through the rest of summer.

In addition to returning park programming, the park recently was visited by the 19th director of the National Park Service, Charles Sams. He spent time chatting and updating the staff on what is happening at the national level and fielding questions. Exciting things will begin to trickle down to the park in the coming months and years.

Summer will also bring two new faces to the park team. Richard Condon, will be arriving from Reconstruction Era National Historical Park to assume the new Lead Park Ranger position, overseeing visitor center operations and volunteer management. John McCarthy, a familiar face to some, will be joining the staff permanently from his most recent posting with the National Park Service at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. He will help bolster frontline operations.

As I reflect on a fast-moving summer, I am reminded of one constant. Time has a way to speed by if we don’t take a moment as I have begun to realize when I received my 15-year certificate of government service earlier this season. Time also brings changes, positive ones, and there are a few upcoming here on the mountain. One that we are very excited about, which started this summer with a site visit from contractors was the advance planning for rehabilitating park informational and education signs, referred to collectively as waysides within the National Park Service. Within the next two years new signage will be installed to better facilitate and share the amazing stories that the Catoctin Mountains hold. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, check out a few new extensions and wrinkles in the park trails, courtesy of our resource management and youth conservation corps trail teams.

There is always something new going on here on the mountain. So, we hope that you join us for a program—be it a campfire program with Ranger Gabrielle or Victoria or a Tyke Hike with Ranger Carrie—or a chat inside the visitor center. We welcome you to your national park. Come take a hike!

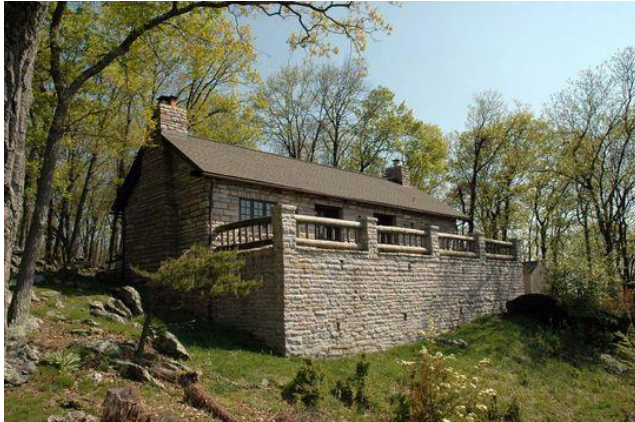
See you on the Mountain!



Staff and volunteers of Catoctin Mountain Park with Director Charles Sams, 19th Director of the National Park Service.

A BIG THANK YOU!

By Shelley Miller, CFA Membership and Fundraising Chairman



Gambrill State Park Tea Room

Thank you to all who made the CFA Gambrill State Park Family Fest a wonderful event. This event was initiated to showcase artwork by the CFA Artist In Residence Program while encouraging families to see the phenomenal resources they have in our local Gambrill State Park. Folks enjoyed the festivities of this pre-Mother's Day event that was held for the first time this year.

Artwork, from the Artist in Residence program, was beautifully displayed (and available for purchase) throughout the Tea Room. CFA wishes to thank the Frederick C. Burr Artz Public Library for allowing CFA to use their display easels. In addition, one of this year's Artist in Residence, Jeffrey Lockwood, was on site to meet and greet those in attendance. A piece of artwork by Nancy Haver was raffled off to raise funds for upcoming CFA youth programs. The winner of the raffle was Cully Leck. Congratulations Cully!

There were also activities for youth including an informative hike around the High Knob area lead by park Superintendent, Mark Spurrier and his wife Debbie.

A 'make a gift for mom for Mother's Day' table was hosted by Debbie Mills and her son Michael. Thank you, Debbie and Michael, for creating special keepsakes for those in attendance of all ages! And, of course, no event is complete without bubbles adorning the landscape. Bubbles sparkled both in front of the Tea Room and also behind the Tea Room from the balcony overlooking the scenic area below. The balcony was also the setting for the relaxing music graciously provided by Sarno and Hess. Thank you, Gene and Steve! Please check out their music at www.sarno-n-hess.com.

An additional highlight to the evening was the celebration of CFA member Jim Sundergill's 80th birthday! We thank Linda and Jim for their continual support of the Artist in Residence (AIR) Program that is one of the highlights of CFA contributions to our local parks and the surrounding Frederick County Community. We look forward to future events!

Speaking of Future Events...

Keep an eye out for information coming about our annual participation in the Schifferstadt Oktoberfest in October 2023, the Boscov's Friend and Family Day in October 2023, and the CFA Holiday giftwrapping fundraiser in November and December 2023.

Photos from the Family Fest Event May 10, 2023



Sarno and Hess shared their wonderful music on the Tea Room balcony for all to enjoy. Thank you, Gene and Steve.



Cully Leck wins raffle--a print of Chimney Rock by AIR artist Nancy Haver. Presented by Linda Sundergill, Chairman of the AIR Program.



Michael Mills hosts the card making table and helps to make events signs. Thank you, Michael.



The artwork of the CFA Artists in Residence Program was on display for all the enjoy and purchase.



Thank you to Wegman's for their generous gift card and donation



Mark Spurrier, Superintendent of Gambrill and Cunningham Falls State Parks, and his wife, Debbie, lead an informative hike around the High Knob area.



Making cards to give the Moms for Mother's Day. Thank you, Debbie Mills and Michael, for hosting the table. Thank you, Pam Robbins, for contributing the card templates.



Terry Cramer and Tammy Foland help with the raffle and ticket sales.



We celebrated a very special birthday. Thank you, Jim, for spending your special day with us! You also, Linda.

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, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

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