



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 11 No.1

February 2021

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

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

## CFA Art Exhibit at the Delaplaine

CFA has been approved to have an exhibit of some the Artist in Residence art work at the Delaplaine Arts Center April 3-25, 2021 in the Hall Gallery and the New Gallery. The opening reception will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3-5pm. A good portion of CFA's Artist in Residence artwork will be on exhibit and for sale. If you can't make it to the gallery to see the art, you can do a virtual tour by visiting the Delaplaine Arts Center at <https://delaplaine.org/>. The listing of exhibits on the site only goes through March at this time. But check next month and you should see information about the Delaplaine AIR Exhibit--*Confluence: Art and Nature Reside in Parks*.

Below are a few of the pieces that will be on display and for sale.



## A Note from Our President—Jim Robbins

I sincerely hope that this note finds you all well and staying as safe as possible. These are trying times to say the least but we have continued to move forward. COVID and regulations, for our protection, hamper many programs but the planning of them still continues.

- The Amish will not be coming to Catoctin Mountain Park. However, they really want to come and after further discussion, I gave them three possible choices. They choose Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. The biggest issues were dealing with housing and the short time frame to get supplies for projects.. Our friends at ThorpeWood are going to house them and projects will be at three locations, the state parks and at ThorpeWood. They will be arriving on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and leaving on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Because of COVID-19 issues they will be spending their time in the mountains exploring. If you are not aware of ThorpeWood please visit their web site (<https://thorpewood.org/>) It is a great location for your events and it runs some great programs It is a 501 (C) 3 organization
- If you have not paid your annual dues and/or you would like to make a donation to our programs, please visit our website [www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org) . We have not had any fundraisers this year and need dollars to continue our programs for the parks. We would appreciate any commitment that you can make.
- The world has changed since our last newsletter but our desire to work with the parks and our other programs have not changed. The formats might have changed but the objectives are the same. The plants, animals and the streams still pull us to the wonderful healing power of our Parks.

If you have any questions about CFA, our programs or questions in general please visit our web site [www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org). You can reach me at [jimrobbins@comcast.net](mailto:jimrobbins@comcast.net) or 301-693-9703).

Jim Robbins, President, CFA



## Maple Syrup Mondays

We are working on "Maple Syrup Mondays" which will feature a series of 5 short videos about the making of maple syrup for our first virtual Maple Syrup festival. The videos will air every Monday our [Facebook](#) page. We will also have sap collection displays and activities like a story walk provided by our partners at Frederick County Public Libraries and the Thurmont Regional Library for the public to enjoy for the month of March. The Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks, Inc. will host the event and have maple products and related merchandise for sale on their website [www.cunninghamgambrill.org](http://www.cunninghamgambrill.org).

### Ranger Mark Spurrier

Park Manager

Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks

Department of Natural Resources

14039 Catoctin Hollow Road

Thurmont, MD 21788

[mark.spurrier@maryland.gov](mailto:mark.spurrier@maryland.gov)

(301) 271-7574 (O)

(240) 285-0274 (M)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

# Catoctin Mountain Park Launches Virtual Field Trip Program



by Carrie Andresen, Park Ranger and Education Coordinator

COVID has certainly caused us to restrict many of our activities but it has also stimulated our creativity. Since groups are no longer gathering for in person field trips, we are happy to tell you about the virtual field trips that we just launched on the park website. [Virtual Field Trip - Catoctin Mountain Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/catoctin/virtual-field-trip)

This program is the culmination of many years of work between the CFA, the park, and many volunteers. We are so pleased that we could put something together for our local students during this time, when they are not able to visit the park.

Below is a sample email that I recently sent out to the Washington Co. Public School teachers. We have now successfully launched the program with Frederick Co. Public Schools, Washington Co. Public Schools, Mother Seton, several homeschool groups in MD & PA, the Maryland School for the Deaf (both campuses-Frederick & Columbia) and it is getting rave reviews. We are especially proud that the programs are accessible for several learning styles, with closed captioning and audio description available. We had a few minor glitches in the beginning, which is why we have launched the website in stages. Soon, we will be sharing the program nationally. We would love your help to spread the word about this great program.

*Dear Washington County 4th grade Educators,*

*We have completed the 4th grade virtual field trip to Catoctin Mountain Park. The program utilizes the Next Generation Science Standards, while teaching about the structures and processes of animals and plants. We are excited for you and your students to interact with the field trip videos. The field trip is set up much the same way as an on-site visit.*

*The website features a field trip booklet, an introductory message, followed by the three learning stations. The series of four videos can be viewed all together or broken up and used at different times to fit your lessons. The videos are closed captioned, and audio described for all learning styles.*

*We certainly wish that we could host you and your students at the park, however, due to the pandemic we came up with this idea. We hope you and your students have fun engaging, learning, and connecting with the park resources.*

[Virtual Field Trip - Catoctin Mountain Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/catoctin/virtual-field-trip)

*If you prefer the programs raw files, for your school website, please let us know. The videos work well for asynchronous and/or synchronous school days.*

*You are in the early round of educators to engage with the videos, therefore, we look forward to your feedback. Feel free to share the resources with any teachers, students, educators, neighbors, family, etc. The videos were*

*made possible with federal tax dollars, a very generous grant from the National Park Foundation and the support and partnership of our friends' group, The Catoctin Forest Alliance. The resources are in the public domain.*

*As a follow up activity, please encourage your students to visit the park or other local natural areas, to engage in person. Catoctin is a free National Park open year-round sunup to sundown.*

*In addition, we are issuing the 4th grade, "Every Kid Outdoors," passes at our outdoor contact station on weekends, weather permitting. The passes allow all 4th graders and their families free access to all National Parks that charge an entrance fee (hint: Shenandoah, Antietam Battlefield, Harpers Ferry...). The passes are valid until August 31, 2021.*

*A bonus was added, this year for 5th graders to have the same access as 4th graders. They can print off a voucher online. Please share this link with 5th graders [Free Access for 5th Graders \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/cato/planyourvisit/hiking.htm)*

*Have fun exploring and learning about the internal and external structures of plants and animals, at Catoctin Mountain Park.*

## **Park Central Road and hiking trails open at Catoctin Mountain Park**



THURMONT, Md. – The closures announced for Catoctin Mountain Park starting January 8 are cancelled. Park Central Road, which has been closed because of winter weather, reopened for vehicular traffic on Friday, January 8. The roadway will remain open as long as weather permits. All trails within the park will also remain open.

Parking is available at the visitor center, although the lots often fill quickly on weekends. Additional parking is available in parking areas along Park Central Road and on the westside of the park in the Round Meadow parking area. Trail maps are available at trailheads and on the park website at <https://www.nps.gov/cato/planyourvisit/hiking.htm>.

For more information please visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/cato](http://www.nps.gov/cato) or call the visitor center 301-663-9388.

—NPS—

**About Catoctin Mountain Park:** Catoctin Mountain Park, one of America's 423 national parks, protects cabins, roads, trails and other structures that were constructed during the Depression era as a Recreational Demonstration Area. Today the park offers the public valuable outdoor recreation opportunities in a natural setting. Learn more at [www.nps.gov/cato](http://www.nps.gov/cato) or follow us on Facebook

# 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 Catocin 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 Catocin 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, 2020 to December 31, 2021.**

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*



*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 website at [www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)