



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 13 No.1

February 2023

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

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



A Note from CFA President, Jim Robbins

It seems that just yesterday the Amish were leaving our parks to go home but next week they are arriving again for the month of March. They will be working on projects at Catoctin Mountain Park NPS, Cunningham and Gambrill State Parks as well as Thorpewood. They will arrive at Harpers Ferry Amtrak station on Monday, February 27th and then off to Thorpewood to set-up for their stay. We will have pictures in our next newsletter so stay informed.

The SUCCESS youth are working on projects within our parks and learning while having fun. We have 6 youth this year and we will need all of them to complete the many projects that the parks have for us. We have completed 18 picnic tables, 20 signs for the plants at the visitors center in the Manor area and are now in the process of completing 15 benches for the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society for use at their events. Some of the SUCCESS youth will help the Amish and then go on to clean the way signs on the trail at the Thurmont Regional Library. Then they're off to the Catoctin Mountain Park NPS for work in the rain garden, Greentop and whatever else we can complete before the middle of May.

Our Every Kid in the Park program is busy with fourth graders in the park with lots of learning to be had and energy that will keep us on the go. So great to see the youth having fun while learning at the same time. The staff from the park and CFA do an outstanding job. If you have some spare time, we would love to have you as part of the staff. Please contact Carrie at 301-663-9388.

As always, we can use your support in time and/or money 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 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 or 301-693-9703.

Jim Robbins

President, C.F.A.



News from Catoctin Mountain Park

“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.” Frank Lloyd Wright.

The famous American architect, designer, writer, and educator was not specifically referencing Catoctin Mountain Park—although he should have been! The Division of Interpretation and Education has been busily gearing up to connect visitors and educators with nature as we emerge from the winter season into spring. A few of the highlights follow.

Our vibrant environmental education program, coordinated by the indefatigable Ranger Carrie, has booked a full-slate of fourth grade programs this spring, welcoming the first Montessori school to our in-park programming, welcoming the Maryland School of the Deaf Frederick campus, and reaching new elementary schools in the Frederick County (MD) area. Last season Ranger Carrie, supported by colleagues and a cadre of amazing volunteers, completed 24 field-trip presentations to eight different schools, reaching 1,296 students, parents, chaperones, and teachers. That number included 11 in-park programs!

For visitors of all ages, the park will continue its partnership with Thurmont Library to offer Tyke Hike programs on Fridays starting in June. Check the park website in the coming weeks for when these immersive programs will start back-up.

The park is excited to welcome back for a second year Rachel Henson as a Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA). Her admirable job recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers, assisting with community outreach, and developing and leading volunteer events in the park was a hallmark of her first year as a CVA. Her second year began February 8th, and she is actively looking for ways to showcase the wonder that is Catoctin Mountain Park with new volunteers, planning amazing public service days, and reaching new audiences.

As with any spring, there is change underway, and the park will welcome some new faces to the division. I am very excited to continue the great example set by the rangers here of interpreting and connecting people to the natural and cultural beauty of this mountain park. One of those that set an exemplary example was Ranger Dorothy. Her last day was December 31, 2022, but as the popular saying in the National Park Service says, “it is never goodbye, just see you later.” The operation of this division, from social media to visitor programming to exhibits, will continue for years to come to reflect her skill, expertise, and creativity. Thank you, Dorothy, and remember, you are always part of the Catoctin Mountain Park family!

The beauty of the natural world here at Catoctin Mountain Park, as Wright wrote years back, never fails!

Here is to a happy, healthy spring. See you on the mountain!

Phillip S. Greenwalt
Chief of Interpretation and Education

News from the State Park

Cunningham Falls and Gambrill: Events and Updates

Maryland Department of Natural Resources sent this bulletin at 02/09/2023 05:20 PM EST



CUNNINGHAM FALLS STATE PARK MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



APPLY NOW to Work with Us!

Seasonal recruitment for Cunningham Falls and Gambrill state parks

Tired of being stuck inside all day? Are you ready to share your love of nature with others this summer? Visit [the DNR jobs page](#) to apply or give us a call for questions: 301-271-7574. Positions available include Park Ranger, Maintenance Worker, Naturalist, Contact

Station Attendant, Camper Contact Attendant, Camp Store Attendant, Concession Attendant, Lifeguard – Lakefront, and Visitor Service Attendant.

Saturdays and Sundays: Museum of the Ironworker

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

12610 Catoclin Furnace Road, Thurmont

Learn about the workers who built the historic village and powered the Catoclin Furnace. Exhibits include amazing façade reconstructions and an innovative "under the floorboards" archaeology feature. Free of charge.



Annual Maple Syrup Festival

March 11, 12, 18, 19: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at

Cunningham Falls State Park

14274 William Houck Drive, Thurmont

Come celebrate the annual Maple Syrup Festival at Cunningham Falls State Park! The festival takes place on the weekends of March 11-12 and March 18-19. Guests can watch staff demonstrate the



traditional way of boiling sap into syrup,

listen to live bluegrass music, and take a hayride through the Maple Grove. Try your hand in the great pancake race – trying to flip a pancake on the run ahead of other contestants – or enjoy a hot pancake breakfast with sausage and maple syrup.

Events take place each day of the event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A sign language interpreter will be stationed at the Sugar Shack on both Sundays. Syrup-making demonstrations and hayrides take place every hour on the hour. \$5 donation per person is requested at the entrance. Breakfast is available during the festival hours at extra cost.

Proceeds from the Maple Syrup Festival benefit the nonprofit Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. The park opens at 9 a.m. and closes at sunset. Pets are permitted on a leash, outside only. This event is ADA accessible. Visitors may call 301-271-7574 for more information.

Firewood Collection Permits

Cut your own cord of firewood for \$20! Firewood permits are available for sale for the next month. Call 301-271-7574 or email cunninghamfalls.statepark@maryland.gov for more information or to purchase a permit.



[Save Our Pollinators!](#)

Donate today to support butterfly and bumblebee habitat and education in state parks!

*Donations in any amount are a helpful way to make a difference. **Thank you!***



Annual Pass Available for Purchase

\$75 for Marylanders; \$100 for out-of-state visitors

Our annual [State Parks and Trails Passport](#) grants unlimited day-use admission and boat launching at state parks, and a 10 percent discount on state-operated concessions and boat rentals.

To enhance convenience and value, this year's pass will arrive in a self-contained packet with a detachable hang-tag, and will be valid for a full year from the month of purchase.

Our network of 75 state parks includes more than 900 miles of trails for biking, hiking and horseback riding, as well as unique water access and camping facilities.

[Home](#) [News](#) [Licenses](#) [Magazine](#) [Photo Contest](#)

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, 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