



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 9 No. 1 January 2019

[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*

## *A Note from our President—Jim Robbins*

We have been busy with our ongoing projects in the mountains. We had a great Christmas Open House. We are working on a new website and have the applications ready for the 2019 Artist in Residence program. We have started working on getting the Amish to come back to the park in March. The Catoctin Mountain Park has been closed and we are hoping that it will open soon.

Please read and not just pass by the newsletter with a click. We have many activities going on and can always use help with them. No long-time commitment needs to be made. An hour can make a huge difference. Ron Harvey and Peggie Gaul at the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center are always looking for people to help as well.

## SUCCESS

**Editor's Note:** The mission of the SUCCESS Program is to empower students with disabilities to become contributing members of a global society by assisting them in developing social competencies, promoting their independence, and encouraging self-advocacy for them in a safe and nurturing environment. The SUCCESS 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 working independently in the domain of 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. At SUCCESS, expectations for each student are set high to ensure that every student experiences success in their learning and development.

For the past five years Jim Robbins has been facilitating the SUCCESS program in Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park with 7-8 students per year. He leads classroom sessions and outdoor work sessions five mornings a week during the school year.



Jim Robbins with some of the SUCCESS students

## Report on SUCCESS by Jim Robbins

The SUCCESS youth have been working hard this fall and into winter. We stayed outside until the weather turned cold. We have been working on clearing brush from the Catoctin Furnace and the Ironmasters House in Catoctin Furnace. We made door decorations to sell for Christmas, worked on some trails and are now rebuilding picnic tables for Cunningham Falls State Park. I really enjoy working with these young men. They not only improve the parks and learn about the proper use of tools but they improve their worth as a member of society as well.



Picnic table repairs completed at Catoctin Mountain Park



Marking a new trail to the Thurmont Library



Results of brush clearing at Catoctin Furnace



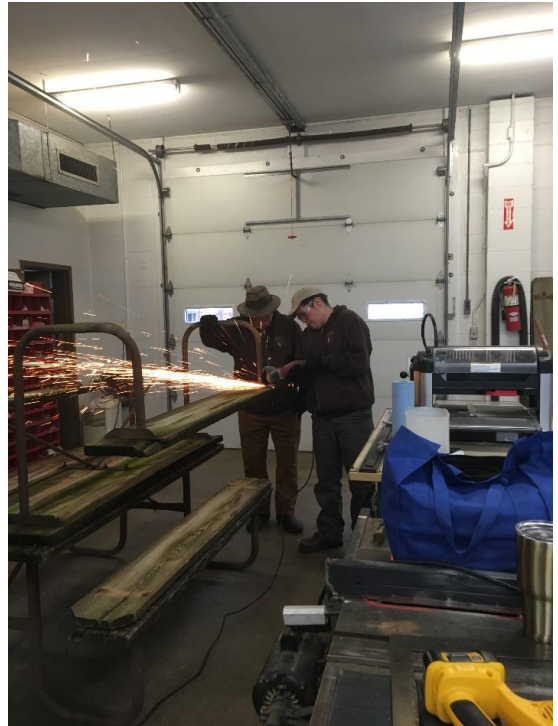
Moving a log with a log carrier at the Ironmaster's House at Catoclin Furnace



Easy does it. One step at a time.



Six picnic tables waiting to be made new



Grinding bolts at the Manor Shop

## Failed CFA Craft Night Morphs into “SUCCESS”

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director



Cancellation of the November 14<sup>th</sup> CFA Paint night resulted in one of the season’s most heartwarming activities. The Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp staff, who planned the event as a CFA Education Program fundraiser, refused to accept defeat and morphed the event into a Candy Cane Wreath Fundraiser, assisted by Jim Robbins and the CFA SUCCESS student team.

SUCCESS students, guided by CFA member Debbie Mills and assisted by Jim Robbins, Shelley Miller and SUCCESS coach Jodi Cool, spent 6 work days cutting and manipulating deco mesh for application to wreath forms. Students remained on task and worked non-stop during each 2 hour session. They exchanged stories about current events and reminisced about favorite holiday events while twisting mesh and securing it with wire. The beautiful wreaths produced evidence of the pride and care that students put into their work. Smiles were the uniforms of the day.

After applying burlap to a form transforming a candy cane into a reindeer, the some of the group saw potential for a horse head. A few tweaks and addition of custom made mane and bridle led to production of the first horse, and the fundraiser’s first sale. The wreath project was announced to the CFA mailing list and at a County SUCCESS fundraising event resulting in multiple sales. Students completed 6 candy cane wreaths, 2 reindeer and 5 horses.

The vision of the Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp Staff and the creative talents of the CFA SUCCESS Crew produced a herd of reindeer and horses that graced multiple homes throughout the county along with Candy Cane Wreaths to decorate the Lewis House for the 2018 Holiday Open House. Profit above material expenses will be added to the CFA education program account.

The CFA Education Team thanks everyone who supported the education program by buying wreaths or assisting with their production. Wreaths remaining unsold are still available.



## CFA hosts table at the 38th Annual Frederick County Science and Engineering Fair

submitted by Shelley Miller



CFA plans to host a table at the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Showcase at the 38th Annual Frederick County Science and Engineering Fair this year. The STEM Showcase will be held at **Tuscarora High School on March 30 from 9:00-11:30**. The showcase is geared toward elementary students and families; however, middle school and high school students also visit many of the tables. Since the target groups are elementary grades, CFA plans to feature several hands-on activities for the preK-5th grade students. Shelley Miller ([Shellbio@aol.com](mailto:Shellbio@aol.com)) is a CFA contact person. If anyone has any ideas/suggestions to be considered as part of the CFA table (either

displays or activities), we are happy to hear from you. We are also happy to have your participation! We hope to post signs about what CFA does and what we offer.

This is a wonderful outreach opportunity to let folks know about CFA and the worthwhile opportunities it provides for folks of all ages. If any CFA member is interested in joining the table for this CFA advocacy, you are welcomed! Please just let Shelley know so she can arrange to have enough space. Thank you!

Complete information for the Science Fair can be found on the following website:

<https://education.fcps.org/sciencesec/sciencefair>

**38th Annual Frederick County Science  
and Engineering Fair**

**March 29 - March 30, 2019**

**STEM Showcase March 30 only**

**at Tuscarora High School**

**5312 Ballenger Creek Pike, Frederick, MD 21703**

## An UPCOMING Special Event submitted by Shelley Miller

We hope your 2019 is getting off to a wonderful start. If you have already renewed your membership with CFA, thank you! If you have not but wish to, please consider using the form on the last page of this newsletter to renew your membership or to join as a new member.

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 consider being a part of them! Please join us for the annual Groundhog Day Pre-Valentine's Day fundraiser to benefit CFA educational programs...

**SAVE THE DATE FOR....**

## CFA Groundhog Day Pre-Valentine's Day Celebration



A CFA fundraiser at  
**Springfield Winery**  
 (11836 Auburn Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788)



**Friday Feb 1**  
 (Groundhog Day Eve!)  
**5 pm-9 pm.**

Join us for some after-work social time and remain for dinner and into the evening if you wish. If you mention that you are supporting the CFA fundraiser a portion of all of your purchase proceeds will be donated to CFA. Several of us will be there the whole time so feel free to come whenever.



No rsvp is necessary. Just come and enjoy **Groundhog Day (and Pre-Valentine's Day)** with us! There will even be **trivia from 7-9!** So get your team(s) ready! Save the date and spread the word! Hope to see you there!

Remember each time you purchase food or drink remember to mention you are there supporting the CFA fundraiser and a portion of the evenings proceeds will go to CFA educational programs in 2019! Thank you!

These beautiful earrings (pictured at left) and donated by Bethany Dell'Agnello, will be raffled at the Feb. 1 Groundhog Day Eve/Pre-Valentine's Day Event. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, 6 tickets for \$5, or 15 tickets for \$10 (best deal!). These would make a wonderful Valentine's Day gift for someone special! Purchase of raffle tickets prior to the event and drawing may be made by contacting Shelley ([Shellbio@aol.com](mailto:Shellbio@aol.com) or 301-471-7434). Tickets will also be available at the CFA Feb. 1 event. Hope to see you there. Yet, you need not be present to win! Get your raffle tickets today! (Proceeds from raffle support CFA educational outreach programs)

## Looking Back...submitted by Shelley Miller

### Thank you FCPS SUCCESS students!

CFA extends a special “Thank You” to the FCPS SUCCESS Students (along with Jodi Cool and Jim Robbins) for their hard work in helping to prepare the Lewis House for the CFA Open House Event. Among many other preparations, the SUCCESS students set up and decorated the beautiful tree! This year SUCCESS students also teamed up with CFA members to create festive candy cane, horse, and reindeer wreaths as part of a CFA educational outreach fundraiser (Wreaths, Wreaths, Wreaths- initiated by Debbie Mills. Thank you Debbie!). The efforts of all are greatly appreciated. Proceeds from the wreath fundraiser will help support CFA sponsored educational programs including field trips, day camps (Camp Catocin), and various educational outreach efforts. We hope to continue this collaboration next year, so feel free to get your requests in early! (Requests for future orders or suggestions for additional wreath types can be directed to Debbie Mills or Shelley Miller)



The tree for the CFA Holiday Open House was decorated by the FCPS SUCCESS students. Thank you SUCCESS students!

## A Festive and Musical CFA Holiday Open House

The CFA Holiday Open house was filled with wonderful fellowship, delicious food, incredible music, and a multitude of good times and laughter. Thank you to all who contributed to, and joined us for, this treasured opportunity to join one another to further strengthen the bonds of CFA with present members, their family, and friends. We always welcome newcomers as well. The event was highlighted by the sensational music of Steve Hess and Gene Sarno. Thank you so much Steve and Gene! Sarno & Hess are available for concerts, pub/restaurant gigs, receptions & private parties. They perform a wide range of classic rock, soft country, traditional & contemporary Irish and folk music.

CFA also wishes to thank those who donated raffle/door prize sponsors: Bethany Dellagnello [www.bethanydjewelry.com](http://www.bethanydjewelry.com), Catocin Veterinary Clinic (Paws Lane, Thurmont MD), Edible Arrangements (Rosemont Ave, Frederick MD), Gateway Candyland (Rt. 15 Thurmont MD), Kountry Kitchen (Thurmont, MD), McCutcheon's Apple Products (Frederick, MD), Oscar's Alehouse (Frederick, MD). Your donations to the raffle and door prizes will help CFA support their educational outreach programs for 2019. Thank you sincerely!



Gene Sarno and Steve Hess graciously shared their time and talents at the CFA Holiday Open House.

Thank you Sarno and Hess!

<http://www.sarno-n-hess.com>



A wonderful time at the CFA Open House. A special "thank you" to Terry Cramer (second from right) and Tammy Foland (far right) for assisting with raffle ticket sales again this year. Your help is greatly appreciated.





Checking out the raffle table.



Raffle table goodies.

## Another Successful Gift Wrapping Service and Fundraising Event at Barnes & Noble (in Frederick)

By Shelley Smith Fundraising Chairman

On Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> CFA served as gift wrappers at Barnes and Noble in Frederick. Contributions amounting to \$262 (to be used for 2019 educational programs) were generously donated to CFA by folks who had their gifts wrapped by our volunteers. As importantly, many folks both nights who stopped by the gift wrapping table learned about CFA. This is an important piece of this service. Letting people know what CFA is all about, and what opportunities CFA offers, is an important part of our aim in 2019 and beyond.

Both evenings at Barnes and Noble were great in so many ways! A special thank you goes out to Dr. Jennifer McDonald DVM of Emmitsburg Veterinary Hospital, and her children (Caroline and Ella) who volunteered their time for the second year in a row. Also volunteering this year was Joyce Li who is a National Honor Society student from Frederick High School. Thank you all for helping to make this a successful CFA service and fund-raising event!



Dr. Jennifer McDonald, DVM of the Emmitsburg Veterinary Hospital, along with Caroline and Ella volunteer to wrap gifts at the CFA gift wrapping table at Barnes and Noble in Frederick. Thank you!



Dennis and Joyce (a National Honor Society student from FHS) volunteer at the CFA gift wrapping table at Barnes and Noble.



## CFA Calendar 2019

### February

- 1 Groundhog Day-PreValentine's Day Celebration at Springfield Winery 5-9pm, see page 6
- 15 AIR applications due for 2019 residency
- 20 CFA Meeting at Lewis Property 4pm (317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788)
- 26 Climate Change Talk at Thurmont Regional Library 7pm. See page 12 for details.

### March

- 4-29 Amish working at Catoctin Mountain Park
- 15 Selected AIR artist notified.
- 30 STEM Showcase at Tuscarora High School 9-11:30am, see page 5

### April

- 15 Input for April CFA Bulletin due to [lindasundergill@comcast.net](mailto:lindasundergill@comcast.net) for release at end of month
- 25 CFA Meeting at Lewis Property 4pm (317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788)

### May

- 1-22 Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park
- 22 CFA Meeting at Lewis Property 4pm (317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788)

### June

- 26 CFA Meeting at Lewis Property 4pm (317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788)

### July

- 15 Input for July CFA Bulletin due to [lindasundergill@comcast.net](mailto:lindasundergill@comcast.net) for release at end of month

### August

- 28 CFA Meeting at Lewis Property 4pm (317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788)

### October

- 15 Input for October CFA Bulletin due to [lindasundergill@comcast.net](mailto:lindasundergill@comcast.net) for release at end of month
- 31 CFA Meeting at Lewis Property 4pm (317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788)

### November

- 27 CFA Meeting at Lewis Property 4pm (317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788)

### December

CFA Christmas Open House details to be announced

## Artist in Residence Program

By Linda Sundergill, AIR Chairman

This past year we had two resident artists in Catoctin Mountain Park—Carlos Reyes, a poet from Oregon and Jim Schlett, a photographer from Virginia. After staying in Catoctin Mountain Park for two weeks this past spring, Jim Schlett went on to do residencies in three more national parks: Manassas, VA, Gettysburg, PA and Homestead, Neb. Jim did a podcast while at Gettysburg and spoke about the Lincoln connection to all four of the parks he visited last year. If you would like to listen to the podcast, go to <http://seminaryexplores.uls.edu/e/spectacular-sunset-look-behind-you-too/>

We are gearing up for the 2019 AIR season. We will have one residency this year for three weeks (May 1-22) in Catoctin Mountain Park. The 2019 AIR application is available by clicking [HERE](#). Applications are due by February 15, 2019 and the selected artist will be notified by March 15, 2019.

The purpose of the Artist in Residence program is to bring artists to Catoctin Mountain Park where they can be inspired by the surroundings and share their talents and vision with the park visitors (adults and children). The artists are expected to produce art that is appropriate for people of all ages and art that will encourage the audience to explore nature.

## An Informative Talk on Climate Change

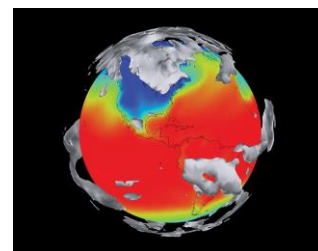
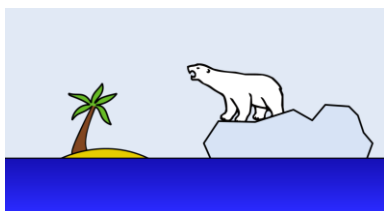
by Joyce Tuten

When: Tuesday Feb. 26

at 7 p.m.

Where: Thurmont Library

(76 E Moser Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788)



As you read this, climate change is threatening our world, and we have a moral obligation to act. While you've probably read and heard a lot about climate change, the science behind it is complicated.

Come spend 60 minutes connecting the dots between science, our climate, people and planet – and the solutions. Joyce Tuten is a high school science teacher who is expert at teaching science to non-science people. She is also a member of the Middletown, MD Sustainability Committee, a NOAA Climate Steward Educator and a trained Climate Reality Project Leader. Joyce will explain the science of the greenhouse effect and global warming and what humans are doing to cause the climate to change. Short but information-dense, her presentation will bring to life the chain of events happening around the planet. And the solutions you can be a part of. Walk away as a new ambassador for understanding and an agent for change that will last generations.

# 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** to the address below. **The membership dues are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple for the period December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2019.**

**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 ____     | Membership ____          | Conservation/Education ____ |
| Fundraising ____            | Artist in Residence ____ | Marketing/Publicity ____    |
| Information Technology ____ | Finance ____             |                             |

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