



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 8 No. 4

January 2018

## Bulletin

[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

Welcome to 2018. Catoctin Forest Alliance, Inc. (CFA) will have a great deal of things going on this year and will need your help in making them successful. The board members and committee members have put together some exciting programs for you. Please spread the word about these programs and activities. See the calendar on the next page for events or check out our website.

The Tourism Council of Frederick County, Inc. awarded CFA a grant to bring a bus load of Amish here in November, 2017. The group (49 Amish) arrived November 17, 2017 and departed November 19, 2017. They worked on the stable at Greentop, Friday and Saturday morning. The Amish ladies raked leaves back from the cabins at Greentop and did some painting before the rain arrived on late Saturday morning. Rain drove us off the stable project late Saturday morning and we were not able to finish the trim or painting of the stable. We have very little to finish with the trim and painting and it will be completed by the SUCCESS youth when the warmer weather arrives. The inclement weather gave us the opportunity to bus the Amish to Gettysburg for a tour on Saturday afternoon and then back for dinner that evening.

We had a wonderful dinner at Greentop Saturday night (November 18, 2017). Great seeing friends, partners and CFA members having a wonderful time just talking and enjoying each other. Thanks to all who came and we look forward to seeing and enjoying your company again in the near future.

SUCCESS youth have been doing the following; they worked with the Amish, helped Catoctin Mountain Park get the park ready for their Christmas Party, split "lots" of firewood for the park, and are now taking apart 20+ picnic tables that are in need of repair and will be placing them back in service after that.

All seven youth completed and passed First Aid and CPR in December, 2017. I am very proud of all of them for this accomplishment.

If you would like to be part of the Catoctin Forest Alliance, Inc. please contact us on our website

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



## CFA Calendar 2018

### January

25 Wine & Paint Night featuring Rebecca Pearl 6-8:30 pm, at the Main Street Center (11 Water Street, Thurmont, MD 21788) Tickets are \$45 and may be acquired by contacting Shelley Miller at [Shellbio@aol.com](mailto:Shellbio@aol.com) or calling/texting her at [301-471-7434](tel:301-471-7434).

### February

2 CFA Groundhog Day Pre-Valentine's Day Celebration at Springfield Winery on (Groundhog Day!), 3 pm-9 pm. For this event, Springfield reserves some seating in the barn for the group (CFA), and then they (Springfield) donate a portion of the sales from our CFA guests that evening during those hours.

28 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property, 317 W Main St. Thurmont, MD

### March

5-30 Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program 2018 work group arrives to volunteer at Catoctin Mountain Park.

22 Catoctin Forest Alliance Speaker Series at the Thurmont Library, 76 East Moser Road, Thurmont, MD. *Up the Creek: Brook Trout in the streams of Catoctin Mountain*, National Park Service Biologist Lindsey Donaldson will discuss the current status of native brook trout in area streams.

### April

15 Spring Camp CATOCTIN Capers 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trips begin for the Spring Season. Contact Debbie Mills at [dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com](mailto:dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com) to learn more about volunteering to help with the field trips or to reserve a field trip date for a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.

25 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property

26 Catoctin Forest Alliance Speaker Series at the Thurmont Library, 76 East Moser Road, Thurmont, MD. *Spring Delights: Mushrooms on the Mountain*, National Park Service Biologist Becky Loncosky will reveal the natural history and folklore of morel mushrooms in the Appalachian Mountains.

### May

Throughout the month – Camp CATOCTIN Capers Field Trips. Contact Debbie Mills at [dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com](mailto:dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com) to learn more about volunteering to help with the field trips or to reserve a field trip date for a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.

6-19 Spring Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park

24 Catoctin Forest Alliance Speaker Series at the Thurmont Library 76 East Moser Road, Thurmont, MD *Forged in Fire: The Art of Knife Making*. Local bladesmith Erin Aylor will demonstrate his artistic endeavors in metal and other media and discuss his television appearance on the History Channel.

### June

Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp. Contact Debbie Mills at [dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com](mailto:dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com) for further information.

27 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property

### August

22 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property

### September

9-22 Fall Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park  
22 National Public Lands Day

### October

24 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property

### December

19 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property

## Special Events submitted by Shelley Miller, Fundraising Chairman

We hope your 2018 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 going to the website, [www.catocoinforestalliance.org](http://www.catocoinforestalliance.org) to do so. And, of course, please share CFA membership information with anyone interested in preserving the Catoctin mountain forests for present and future generations. Either way, there are many exciting things happening in CFA and we hope you will consider being a part of them! Please join us for the following fundraisers to benefit CFA educational programs...



# Please join us for Paint Night



**A Benefit for The Catoctin Forest Alliance**  
promoting the preservation of the Catoctin forests for present and  
future generations

Wine & Paint Nite

Featuring **Rebecca Pearl**



A night of fun at

**Main Street Center**

11 Water Street, Thurmont, MD 21788

**January 25<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**6-8:30**



**Tickets** available for only **\$45** by contacting Shelley Miller at [Shellbio@aol.com](mailto:Shellbio@aol.com) This is a great way to start out the new year! Bring a friend!

Hope to see you there!



Featuring a tree scene water color

Visit [www.catocoinforestalliance.com](http://www.catocoinforestalliance.com) for more CFA information



You can also reserve your Paint Night ticket by calling or texting Shelley Miller at 301-471-7434. Space is limited but there is room left so reserve your ticket today. Please share this information to anyone who may be interested.

This is a great event to share with family and friends.

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



A CFA fundraiser at

### Springfield Winery

(11836 Auburn Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788)

**Friday Feb 2**

**(Groundhog Day!)**

**3 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! More details will be forthcoming. We just want to make you aware so that you can save the date and perhaps spread the word about saving the date to others.

## News from Catoctin Mountain Park submitted by Peggie Gaul, Ranger



On February 12, 2018, Catoctin Mountain Park Volunteer Lorne Haines will be welcomed to the staff in his new role as the park's newest Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA) intern. This position, previously held by Glenn "Geno" Arthur, has proven instrumental in the overall operation and success of the volunteer program. Lorne will be assisting the staff in management and organizing critical upcoming activities such as the April 7 Poplar Grove Youth Campground pre-opening cleanup with BSA Troop 270 and the Order of the Arrow event on April 28. We hope you get the opportunity to stop by the Visitor Center and meet Lorne soon!

The park always has volunteer opportunities. Anyone who is interested may call Volunteer Coordinator Ron Harvey at 301-663-9388.

The planning stage for the new visitor center exhibits has been completed. Fabrication and installation of the exhibits will take place over the next 12-18 months.

Upcoming programs at Catoctin Mountain Park:

- February 25 Discovery Hike to Chimney Rock and Wolf Rock at 10 a.m. Led by Park Volunteer Daryl Despres. Group will meet at the visitor center
- March 3, 4, 10 and 11. Orienteering classes for beginners at 1p.m., Individuals and groups of 10 or fewer can call the visitor center to sign up, 301-663-9388.

# **CFA Recognizes Supporters at the First Catoctin Forest Alliance Reunion**

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

Since 2009, when it was established, the Catoctin Forest Alliance has had great success conducting educational and volunteer programs. Support from dedicated volunteers, willing to share their time, enthusiasm and expertise, and from partners and sponsors sharing their resources is the key to this success.

Unfortunately, many volunteers focus their efforts on specific projects and miss the opportunity to interact with other CFA members. The First Catoctin Forest Alliance Reunion, held at Camp Greentop on November 18 provided a remedy for this problem.

Approximately 80 CFA volunteers, and representatives from CFA partners and sponsors attended this special evening event that featured good food and conversation. A special transportation grant, provided by the Tourism Council of Frederick County made it possible for 47 members of the Nappanee, Indiana community to visit Thurmont for the weekend and to attend the reunion representing the 5 Amish work groups that have volunteered at Catoctin Mountain Park since 2012.

The evening was designed to promote interaction among CFA supporters so formal recognition was held to a minimum. Volunteers were given the opportunity to stand when the program they supported was mentioned. A special effort to seat representatives from multiple programs at the same table led to interesting and in-depth conversations about programs and cultures, and multiple new friendships.

The Catoctin Forest Alliance thanks the following partners and sponsors for generously supporting 2016-2017 programs:

- Catoctin Furnace Historical Society
- Claude and Erica
- Constellation Energy
- D L George and Sons
- Fitzgerald's Shamrock Restaurant
- Frederick County Public Schools
- Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program
- League for People with Disabilities
- McKane and Associates
- National Park Foundation
- Thurmont Civitan and Civitan International
- Tourism Council of Frederick County
- Trail Riders of Today (TROT)
- Westminster Elementary School PTO
- Westminster Family Dentistry

# Camp CATOCTIN Capers to Resume for 2018 Spring Session

By Debbie Mills

In 2016, a National Park Foundation Every Kid in a Park grant made it possible for the Catoctin Mountain Park/Catoctin Forest Alliance partnership to begin providing curriculum based field trips for local 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at no cost to schools or students.

Since then, the program has grown in scope and success, serving nearly 2500 Frederick County students through the Camp CATOCTIN Capers field trips programs. CFA is almost halfway to the goal of using the field trips to introduce every 4<sup>th</sup> grader in Frederick County to the value of National and State Parks as places for education and recreation.

Spring Field Trips will be offered April 15 through the end of May. Please help us reach every 4<sup>th</sup> grader in Frederick County by encouraging your local school to participate in this no-cost field trip or by volunteering your expertise to help with the programs conducted on school days from 9:30 am until 1:00 pm. Interested teachers and potential volunteers are encouraged to contact CFA Program Director Debra Mills at [dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com](mailto:dop.catoctinforestalliance@gmail.com) for details and further information.

The Camp CATOCTIN Capers field trips teach Life Science concepts using the 3 distinct formats of Campsite Forensics, a guided walk and a Build a Tree activity that puts everyone in the group into motion. Enthusiasm is the primary requirement for volunteers. Training is provided and we encourage everyone from college students to retirees to participate. Field trips are available for public and private 4<sup>th</sup> grades in Frederick County and the local area.



Guided walk led by Mel Poole



Students at the Crime Scene Capers record their observations



## Cunningham Falls State Park Happenings 2018-2019

March 10-11 & 17-18

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### **Maple Syrup Festival**

*Cunningham Falls State Park*

*William Houck Lake Area*

Learn the traditional process of maple sugaring and enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast for an additional charge. \$3 donation.

March 17

9:30 a.m.

### **Maple Sap Run**

*Cunningham Falls State Park*

*William Houck Lake Area*

As part of the Maple Syrup Festival, participants of any age can enjoy a non-competitive 1.5 mile fun run/walk along the scenic roadways that showcases our sap-producing maple trees. \$3 donation for entrance, event is free.

April 21

### **Fishing Rodeo**

*Gambrill State Park*

Anglers 15 and under are invited to fish in the pond at Gambrill State Park. All participants must be accompanied by an adult and bring their own fishing tackle and bait. Limited to the first 35 registered participants. Call 301-293-4170 or email [alicia.norris@maryland.gov](mailto:alicia.norris@maryland.gov) to reserve your space. Free.

May 5 & 6

### **Spring in the Village, Art at the Furnace**

*Cunningham Falls State Park*

*Historic Catoctin Iron Furnace*

Celebrate spring in the Historic Catoctin Iron Furnace. Enjoy a fun atmosphere with amusements for all. Art, wine garden, Sarah's garden plant sale, food, music, and children's activities throughout the historic sites of the village. Parking at Cunningham Falls State Park Manor Area. Shuttle Provided. Free.

June 2

### **National Trails Day**

*Cunningham Falls State Park*

If you enjoy hiking and your public lands, this is the day to give back to the trails you love. Join Rangers for a day of trail work. You will work hard, get dirty, and have fun while doing it. Work can be strenuous. Sturdy boots or shoes, work gloves, and water are recommended. Pre-register by calling 301-271-7574. Free.

September 29

**Public Lands Day**

***Gambrill State Park***

Give back to your public lands by joining a small crew for an afternoon of cleanup and beautification projects at Gambrill State Park. Sturdy boots or shoes, work gloves, and water are recommended. Pre-register by calling 301-293-4170. Free.

October 7

**Autumn Tea at the Tea Room**

***Gambrill State Park***

***Tea Room***

Enjoy a traditional tea service and the beautiful fall scenery at one of Frederick's oldest gathering places. For information and to reserve your seat, visit [cunninghamgambrill.org](http://cunninghamgambrill.org).

October 20

**Spirits of the Furnace**

***Cunningham Falls State Park***

***Historic Catoclin Iron Furnace***

Step back in time and experience a guided tour through the historic village with a seasonal twist. Spirits of the Furnace will tell stories based on local lore and historical events. Reservations and tickets required. For more information, visit [catoclinfurnace.org](http://catoclinfurnace.org).

October 28

**5K Fun Run/Walk**

***Cunningham Falls State Park***

***William Houck Lake Area***

Enjoy Frederick County's most scenic 5K Fun Run/Walk in the fall foliage and crisp air. Space is limited so register early. For information and to reserve your space, visit [cunninghamgambrill.org](http://cunninghamgambrill.org).

January 1, 2019

**First Day Hikes**

***Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks***

Start the New Year off on the right foot by taking a hike through Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. Rangers will be on hand to guide hikers and answer questions. For more information about location and time of hikes, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/firstdayhikes.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/firstdayhikes.aspx)

Interpretive programs for visitors are offered during the day and may vary in length and content on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Be sure to call ahead for the latest information on upcoming programs. 301-271-7574.





## **Catoctin Forest Alliance Announces Preservation Programs at the Thurmont Library for Spring 2018**

The Catoctin Forest Alliance is pleased to present the following speakers and programs for Spring 2018.

All programs start at 7:00 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Thurmont, MD Library. All programs are free and open to the public.

**March 22: *Up the Creek: Brook Trout in the streams of Catoctin Mountain.***

National Park Service Biologist Lindsey Donaldson will discuss the current status of native brook trout in area streams.

**April 26: *Spring Delights: Mushrooms on the Mountain***

National Park Service Biologist Becky Loncosky will reveal the natural history and folklore of morel mushrooms in the Appalachian Mountains.

**May 24: *Forged in Fire: The Art of Knife Making***

Local bladesmith Erin Aylor will demonstrate his artistic endeavors in metal and other media and discuss his television appearance on the History Channel.

**Contacts:**

**Thurmont Library**

76 East Moser Road  
Thurmont, MD 21788.  
Telephone: (301) 600-7200

**Catoctin Forest Alliance**

P.O. Box 411  
Thurmont, MD 21788  
[www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)

*Preserving & promoting the health of the Catoctin Mountain forest for the enjoyment of present and future generations.*

# Photo Collage of December Activities



Debbie Mills and SUCCESS students making Christmas decorations



Christmas Critters to give to guests at CFA Open House

We want to especially thank the following sponsors for their donations that have helped make this evening possible:

- Edible Arrangements**
- Pryor's Orchard**
- McCutcheons Apple Products**
- Kountry Kitchen**
- Gateway Candyland**

- Catoctin Veterinary Clinic**
- Dick's Sporting Goods**
- Nena's Curbside Cafe**



Guests chatting during CFA Christmas Open House



Selling Raffle Tickets at the Open House

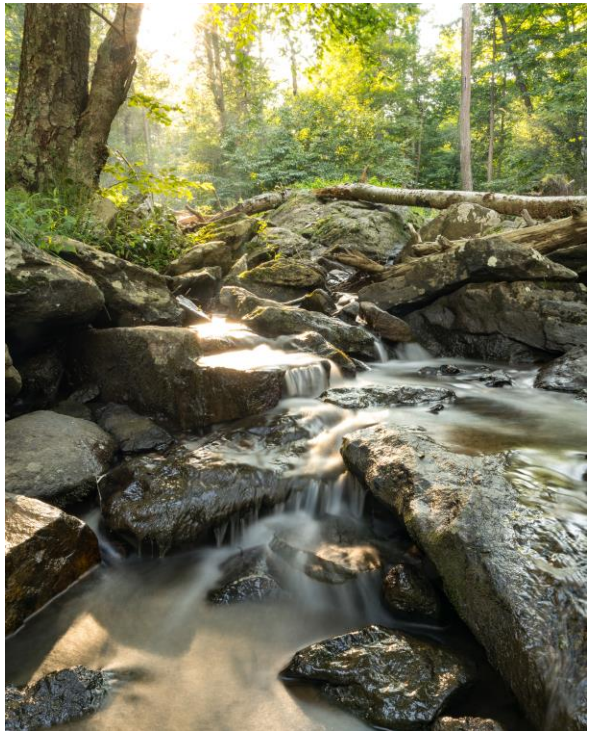
## Artist in Residence by Linda Sundergill, AIR Committee Chair

The Catoctin Forest Alliance Artist in Residence program is entering its 8<sup>th</sup> year. The artists have resided in either Catoctin Mountain Park or Cunningham Falls State Park for 1-2 week periods and come from all over the United States. Each artist does an interactive program for the public during their stay. At the end of their residency, each artist donates to CFA a piece of art that was inspired by their visit to the park. The collection has been on display at The Delaplaine Center for the Arts, Thurmont Regional Library, Cunningham Falls State Park Visitor’s Center and the Main Street Center in Thurmont.

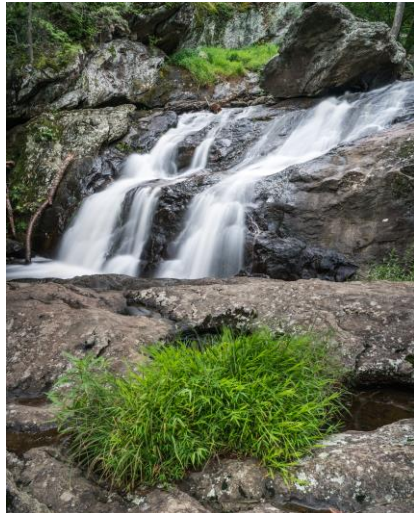
CFA invites artists (2-diminsional, 3-dimentional, photographers, videographers, writers and poets) to apply for a Spring or Fall residency. The application and full details about the program are available at <http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org/artist-in-residence>. In the upper right corner of the webpage, there is a link to the 2018 Artist in Residence Application form.

### Nathan Gobes

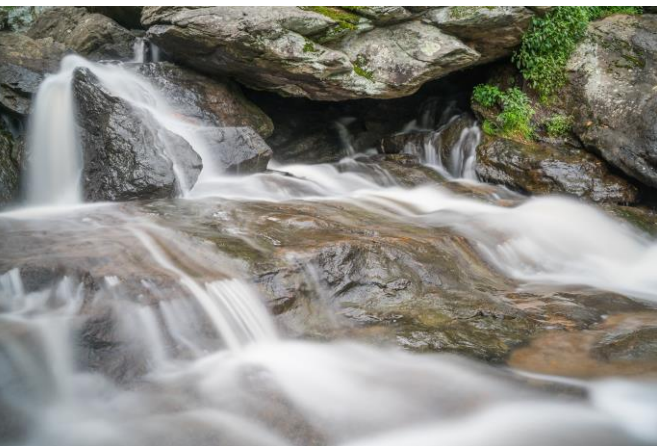
In the summer of 2017 photographer/videographer Nathan Gobes from Westborough, MA was the Artist in Residence at Cunningham Falls State Park. He photographed much of the beautiful scenery there and is creating a short documentary video for the park. Below are some of the stunning photos that Nathan took during his residency. All the photos are used with his permission. If you would like to learn more about Nathan Gobes and his work, go to [www.nathangobes.wixsite.com/ngphotovideo](http://www.nathangobes.wixsite.com/ngphotovideo).



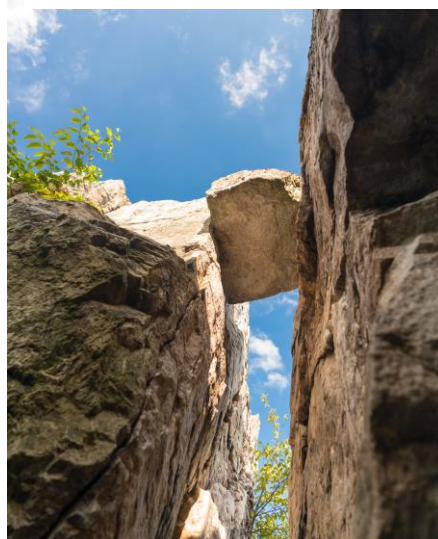
Evening Sun Long Exposure at Cunningham Falls



Cunningham Falls Middle Section



Cunningham Falls Upper Section



Rock in Crevice at Wolf Rock

# It is Time to 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. Current members, please send in your renewal by January 31, 2018.

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 cost is \$20 per person or \$30 per couple for a membership that will last through December 2018.

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