



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 8 No. 3 July 2018

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 Welcomes Spring Artist in Residence

Jim Schlett, a photographer from Reston, VA was in residence at Catoctin Mountain Park from May 6-19. Jim and his wife, Gail, spent two weeks exploring the park and interacting with visitors and staff. Jim presented two nature photography programs, took photos of the park staff and took photos of all of our Artist in Residence artwork in addition to capturing the beauty of the park with his photos.



Photos courtesy of Jim Schlett. Left: Jim taking a close up nature photo. Right: Jim and Gail in front of Misty Mount

Cabin 16 where they stayed during the residency.

With Jim's permission, the link below is included with all of the nature photos Jim took during his residency.

Catoctin Images ---slideshows

<http://photomanva.zenfolio.com/p397545604/slideshow#hacf2800b> (This slideshow has music.)

<http://photomanva.zenfolio.com/p397545604> (Slide show without music.)

Below is a shortened version of an article that Jim submitted to the *Catoctin Banner*. The full article is scheduled to be in the August issue.

The Artist in Residence Program by Jim Schlett

When National Parks were first established well over a century ago, painters and photographers created work that inspired Americans and people from around the world to journey and visit those areas and generate an interest in the Parks that lives on to this day. The National Park Service (NPS) still reaches out to potential “artists” through its Artist-In-Residency (AIR) program, which is available at over 40 different locations.

Through a very competitive application process, I was notified that I had been selected as the AIR at Catoctin Mountain Park for 2 weeks in May. Each park asks that the artist donate one piece of their work back to the Park after the residency is completed and to give a workshop/talk to the public during the residency. We arrived on Sunday, May 6, in a light rain, which created a bright spring green on our drive up from Virginia, and which I hoped would make for great photos over the two weeks. I would note that my wife and I have a great interest in our National Parks, dating back to the early 1980s with our first trip to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons with now having visited over 140 sites to date.

As with my prior AIR experience at Whiskeytown Park in Northern California in 2016, I kept a detailed journal of each day, touching on such activities, as hikes, people we met, and notes for future exploring. On our first day we met the AIR Coordinator, Carrie Andresen, who provided us with a great overview of the park, potential workshop dates, introduced other park employees and volunteers and she also talked about on-going events of the park. In addition to creating my own images of the park, I had made an offer to take photos of the Park employees and volunteers during my stay. As a result, I managed to meet many employees and volunteers, who all went the extra mile in terms of reaching out to me and all of the visitors to the park.

Catoctin Park provided space in the Visitors Center for the display of my photography, so on the first Monday, we installed about 15 of my canvas prints at the Center. I also provided a daily update of 3 - 4 new images for each day at the park, which were also posted at the Visitors' Center and on their Facebook page as well as mine. Over the two weeks, we hiked essentially all of the trails and some more than once.

It doesn't take long in a National Park to find inspiration for creating new work. As an example, a simple, relatively easy walk along the Blue Blazes trail would lead to hundreds of photos of the stream, trees, flowers and eventually the Whiskey Still. On a few days there was a heavy fog and mist, which provided unique lighting for new images. We were so enthralled with the park, we invited several of our friends from Northern Virginia to travel up to spend the day exploring the park with us and they all greatly enjoyed the experience.

As Ansel Adams, a world renowned photographer and friend of the National Parks had remarked something to the effect,.... good photographs occur when you figure out the right place to stand. I spent a great deal of time looking for those “right places”. With a full two weeks in the park, I never tired of exploring and heading out for more springtime photos and yet the time raced by us so quickly until the time of our departure on May 19. Being in a National Park gives one time to reconnect with nature and my time at Catoctin Mountain Park gave me that and more. Even though the Residency came to an end too quickly, I have already made plans for more return visits with the changing of the seasons at Catoctin. I will also be exhibiting some of my photographs from the Catoctin experience at the ArtSpace Gallery in Herndon Virginia later this year.

Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp Convenes

June 25-29, 2018

By Kendall Masters and Debra Mills

The 2018 edition of Camp CATOCTIN was held Monday through Friday, June 25 through 29. Returning teachers Amanda Frushour and Brenda Newhouse shared their expertise, experience and love of nature with 40 students from Carroll County's Westminster Elementary School.

With a primary objective of getting kids outdoors, Camp CATOCTIN combines traditional camp activities like hiking, crafts and outdoor picnics with curriculum based science and social studies lessons. Unique settings in Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park combined with interactions with National and State Park Rangers introduce students to National and State Parks as places to learn science and history in a real world setting. Funds from a National Park Foundation Every Kid in the Park grant awarded to Catoctin Mountain Park and administered by the Catoctin Forest Alliance, provided primary funding for the camp.

Since the Every Kid in the Park Program targets 4th grade students, each day of Camp CATOCTIN showcases educational themes and activities aligned with the Next Generation National Science standards for 4th and 5th grade. On Monday, students completed the Catoctin Mountain Park Jr. Ranger booklet, hiked to the Blue Blazes Still and learned how alcohol helped shape colonial history, became detectives to discover how picnic and campsites are "vandalized" by animals and observed adaptations that help plants survive and reproduce. Tuesday's activities included a stream study and Build a Tree activity. Wednesday's activities moved to the Cunningham Falls State Park Manor Area for the Scales and Tales program and a hike to the Catoctin Furnace. Geology came alive on Thursday as former Frederick County Outdoor School Principal Eddie Main led a hike to Thurmont Vista and demonstrated how observable changes in rock formations show the edge of an ancient ocean. Friday came too quickly and ended too soon but included a hike from Cunningham Falls to the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center and the traditional closing ceremony and family picnic.

One student summarized the week as follows:

Dear Mrs. Mills,

Thank you for everything you did for me. One thing that I loved was the stream day! I loved getting in the stream and catching all of the critters and then afterwards getting to see what everyone else caught. I learned so much about nature, animals and how things were back in the day. Another thing I loved was the lake and picnic day. I loved how we got to play in the lake with everyone as well as the picnic. This was my second year coming and I still learned so much. Once again thank you for everything you did!

*Thank you,
Kendall Masters*

Thank you to the following supporting individuals and organizations whose generous donations of time, funding or products added to the success of Camp Catoctin:

- The National Park Foundation
- Superintendent Rick Slade and the staff of Catoctin Mountain Park

- Superintendent Mark Spurrier and the staff of Cunningham Falls State Park
- President Jim Robbins, the Board of Directors and Membership of the Catoctin Forest Alliance
- Biologist Becky Loncosky and the 2018 Catoctin Mountain Park YCC crew
- Principal Whitney Warner and the Westminster Elementary School PTO
- Constellation Energy
- Mel Poole
- Eddie Main
- Rocky's Pizza
- BJ's Wholesale Club
- Food Lion
- Weis Markets
- Baugher's Market Westminster, MD

Eddie Main leads a geology hike. Eddie was able to show the students where the ocean met the beach in Catoctin Mountain many years ago.






Waiting for the hike to the Blue Blazes Whiskey Still to start.

*A captured millipede:
"Is that thing for real?"*



CFA Calendar 2018

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- July**
26 *What Kind of Tree is That?* Tree Identification for Beginners
Naturalist Troy Schyllenburg of Cunningham Falls State Park will show beginners how to identify local tree species
- August**
22 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
23 *Wildlife in Our Neighborhood: Scales and Tales* Maryland Park Service Naturalist Mollie Kemp will introduce some of our local wildlife and their needs to participants.
- September**
9-22 Fall Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park, Carlos Reyes, poet from Oregon
22 National Public Lands Day
- October**
24 CFA General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
- December**
19 CFA General Meeting and Christmas Party 4pm at the Lewis property

Cunningham Falls State Park Happenings 2018-2019



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

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 www.cunninghamgambrill.org.

October 20 **Spirits of the Furnace**

Cunningham Falls State Park

Historic Catoctin 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 www.catoctinfurnace.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 www.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

A Note from Our President, Jim Robbins

It is hard to believe that half of 2018 is gone and it is not as busy at CFA. This gives Pam and me a little time to travel, visit with friends, family and rejuvenate ourselves for the rest of the year. Please read and not just pass by the newsletter with a click. We, CFA, have many activities going on and can always use help with them. No long-time commitment need to be made and hour can make a huge difference. Ron Harvey and Peggie Gaul at the Visitor Center are always looking for people to help.

The Amish will be visiting Catoctin Mountain Park in November (2-4) thanks to the Tourism Council of Frederick County. This will be a great time to come and visit with some great people that do amazing work for our Park. Bring a picnic (at Green Top), visit, hike and enjoy. Fun is an enjoyable part of the mountains.

Remembering Norman Gibat



Norman Gibat, husband of Holly Rife (former Chief Ranger at Catoctin Mountain Park), passed away on July 4 at the age of 65. Norman was a very talented man with many skills including music, computers and cooking. Norman and Holly were both very helpful to The Catoctin Forest Alliance. Norman helped us greatly with our website and printed a lot of materials for our Meetings on the Mountain. Holly was a driving force to get our Artist in Residence program up and running successfully.

Many thanks to Norman and Holly for their support of CFA and our sympathy and prayers to Holly and her family for their loss. Below is the link to the obituary.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/fredericknewspost/obituary-search.aspx?affiliateId=3187&firstname=norman&lastname=gibat&stateid=24>



News From Catoctin Mountain Park

by Lorne Haines, Community Volunteer Ambassador

We have had an action packed summer so far and are thankful for the CFA's assistance in helping us maximize our impact on the community. We enjoyed having Artist in Residence Jim Schlett taking photos around the park and capturing the park's natural and historical beauty. He also took some phenomenal photos of our staff during some trainings and when they were hard at work.

We have also had multiple groups of Girl Scouts come and assist up at the Chestnut picnic area to widen the horse trail and make the path more clearly defined by the trailer parking. Some of our trail stewards have been touching up the blazing on the east side of the park on the Gateway trail and Chimney/Wolf Rock Loop. We have also blazed the horse trail with orange triangles from the Chestnut Picnic Area down to the Owen's Creek Picnic Area. The Youth Conservation Corps plans on wrapping up blazing the rest of the horse trail this summer. With the assistance of our volunteer blacksmith, we are resuming blacksmith demonstrations, were able to restore proper air flow to the fire pot, and had a demonstration this past week. Our volunteers have enabled us to provide interpretive tables at several community outreach events this Spring and Summer. At the Waynesboro YMCA,

Thurmont library, and the Appalachian Trail Outdoor Festival we set up an interpretive table with natural items and information about park resources. At the Art at the Furnace event, we had some interpretive materials about the charcoal making process. We will have some more outreach events coming up in the Fall, if anyone from the CFA is interested in assisting us please contact Ron Harvey at ron_harvey@nps.gov.

Many thanks to Jim Robbins and the SUCCESS kids for their hard work they have done up at Camp Greentop. The ramps and forest rehabilitation projects will help ensure that Greentop remains an enjoyable environment for all its campers. Our big projects for the rest of the summer include replacing some of the tent pads over at Owen's Creek Campground on July 23rd and preparing for National Public Lands Day. If anyone is interested in assisting with the tent pad project, please contact Lorne at lorne_haines@partner.nps.gov.

National Public Lands Day:

National Public Lands Day will be on Saturday September 22, 2018. We will be meeting at Owens Creek Picnic Area for a picnic area rehabilitation project. Logistical details will be coming soon as well as a flyer to advertise the event. We are looking for people to help us move picnic tables, mulch the area around them, reset charcoal grills, and repaint the lines in the parking area.

Tools will be provided and all volunteers will receive a Free one day pass valid for all national parks and federal lands. We appreciate any assistance in the recruitment process and on the day of the project.

We have had some really amazing programs in the park this summer. We have had the pleasure of offering campfire programs every Saturday night since Memorial Day weekend and will continue to do so through Labor Day weekend. In addition we have been co-presenting story-time & hike programs with the Frederick County Thurmont and Emmitsburg libraries, Blacksmith demonstrations, presenting programs to our partners at Green top, as well as to camp groups, both on and offsite. We look forward to reaching new audiences and hope that groups will call us for program opportunities. We ask that groups contact us a month or two in advance to schedule a Ranger. Please call the visitor center for more information 301-663-9388.

Here is a run-down of what is to come:

July 28

Salamander Safari Join us at the Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater to begin a hands-on search for the salamanders that live in Owens Creek and discover their vital role in the health of the streams and forestlands of the park. Program starts at 5pm.

August 4

OSS Program Join us at Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater to learn about the OSS training here at Catoctin. The OSS is known today as the CIA. The program will include spy activities and will be family friendly. Program starts at 5pm.

We have more programs that we are scheduling, therefore, keep an eye on our Facebook and website pages.

<https://www.nps.gov/cato/index.htm>

<https://www.facebook.com/CatoctinNPS/>

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 cost is \$10 per person or \$20 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