



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 9 No. 3 July 2019

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

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

2019 Artist in Residence



Sarah McCartt-Jackson was our Artist in Residence May 1-21, 2019. Sarah is from Lexington, KY where she is currently a teaching artist for the Kentucky Arts Council. She also offers community workshops for writers of all backgrounds through several organizations including Louisville Literary Arts, Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, Falls of the Ohio State Park and others.

McCartt-Jackson is the author of *Stonelight*, which won the Weatherford Prize in poetry and the Airlie Prize, and three chapbooks: *Calf Canyon*, *Vein of Stone*, and *Children Born on the Wrong Side of the River*, which won the Mary Ballard Poetry Prize. Hailing from Kentucky, McCartt-Jackson is a poet, folklorist, and educator who works to inspire people of all ages to connect with the natural world around them through art. You can visit her website

at: www.sarahmccarttjackson.com.

While in residence at Catoctin Mountain Park, Sarah hiked every trail in the park, chatted with many visitors and made regular trips to the Visitor's Center (VC) to interact with staff and guests. She put up a message board in the VC and asked people to write down what they liked most about the park. The same request was also posted on the Catoctin Mountain Park Facebook page. With all the responses that were received, Sarah created a special collaborative poem entitled *Catoctin Mountain*. Another poem that Sarah wrote during her residency is entitled *Shelter* and was inspired by historic Cabin 16 where she stayed and by the rain that was plentiful during her time in the Catoctin Mountains.

On May 18, Sarah did a poetry reading at the Delaplaine Arts Center that was very well received.



Sarah McCartt-Jackson doing poetry reading at The Delaplaine Arts Center

Catoctin Mountain

-a collaborative poem with words from visitors

It's nice to escape the city and go to the mountain,

find solitude in a green that smells like grass.

Where the trees enchant me until I'm 12 years old in 1966,

and back again, where my daughter is 4 years old and discovers

the soft fur of moss. We climb the boulders named after beasts

to look out across what once was a new valley, a freedom that stirs us.

Sun peeks through the tree leaves, dapples its light on chipmunks

and deer, fills a moss-covered forest floor and ripples down to

the river that sounds like it's talking. A seedling surprises

us as it takes hold and pushes up through new soil.

The fog and clouds smell like more to discover. We welcome

the adventure of a drencher, horse trails that lead us

by bridle or by foot to a quiet and stillness that unfurls

like a fiddlehead fern, reaches out like a hand from the past.

Where a camp cabin can feel like home and a vista like an old friend.

We gather around the hearth for company when snow drifts cover roots

and stone, await spring when the creek fills up until it splashes over,

as if the rocks are moving underwater, moving in the underground of our bodies.

Beyond the lush, the wood thrush's song. Beyond the birds, the people

we return to on land that draws in like iron fillings to lodestone. We access ourselves

until Jack-in-the-Pulpits and mayapples bloom in us, make of us a forest floor.
 We nurture stonefly nymphs and water striders, cutleaf toothwort and toads,
 as if we hold something in one palm, and then the other, remembering
 its heft. And we don't stop here. We add an hour to our trail, a mile to our life.

Shelter

-inspired by Camp Misty Mount, Cabin 16

Even shelters have their own weather. Mine grows
 like the underbrush: in brier tangles and burrowing insects
 and fungi that lick rotting logs. Our weather varies as
 much as tree bark. Here, in this three-bedroom cabin, I keep
 the windows open, invite the outside in to sit a spell.

The cabin fills with the smell of damp wood as sunlight excavates
 the swollen gutters. Drop by drop, the dripline under the eaves
 fills with yesterday's rain, today's fog, so that a small toad who lives
 in my firewood bucket might have a drink and hop back under the porch.

I don't mind weather. I embrace the way a thunder rolls like hunger
 through the greenstone. Watch lightning make the ridge
 flash out of darkness. In drizzle, the spring green of new ferns pierces
 the stillness so I'm not sure where fern ends and fog begins. If I stand still
 long enough, I think I might feel how a mushroom cap opens,
 how a slug slowly augers a hole into the fungus gills before sliding on.

Treeweather fills the mountain. I can spot a tulip poplar
by its absolute spine. A beech bends its serrated leaves to the wind
as if all its smooth branches are floating on ocean waves. Somewhere
in an acorn, between its thatched cap and woody meat, a white oak
drops its memory, lets winter go to seed. Then the plush log rots,
its bark gone soft, its cell walls dissolved back into soil.

Then birdweather at dusk. The woodpecker tests the hollow trunks,
and the woodthrush brings its song like a flute inside a jar.

As the sun sinks over the mountain ridge, darkness creeps in slowly,
like an after-rain trickle down the old stone roads. Evening turns
the cabin inside out, shadows the windowpanes until what I see is
no longer outside. All the creatures not yet sleeping watch
my laptop's blue glow. Each day lingers longer. And tonight,
the full flower moon will rise, rinse the mountain in moonlight that spills
its slats on my windowsill and wakes the midnight weather.



Camp Misty Mount, Historic Cabin 16



CFA/Catoctin Mountain Park Calendar 2019

July Activities in Catoctin Mountain Park

20 Office of Strategic Services at Catoctin

Join a ranger to learn about a little-known aspect of Catoctin's history: spies trained here! The presentation will be followed by activities to test your spy abilities. Meet at the Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater at 7 PM.

24 Charcoal Hike

Learn about the charcoal production process in the area and how it contributed to industry and population growth for the town of Thurmont on this 45 minute hike along the Charcoal Trail. Meet at the Thurmont Vista Parking Area at 10 AM.

26 Nature Walk

Explore the animals, plants, and trees that live in Catoctin Mountain Park on this family-friendly 45 minute walk. Meet at the Hog Rock Parking Area at 3 PM.

27 The Industries of the Mountain

Explore the stories of why Catoctin Mountain's vast resources were systematically harvested and how the lush forest of the mountain returned. Meet at the Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater at 7 PM.

28 Blacksmith Demonstration

Meet at the historic WPA Blacksmith Shop and discover the art of blacksmithing. See the forge in action! Demonstrations will run from 1 to 4 PM at Camp Round Meadow, 14840 Manahan Rd, Sabillasville, MD.

29 Hiking Rocks!

Children in the Thurmont Summer Rec Program will learn about the rocks at Catoctin Mountain Park. Register at the Town Office or call 301-271-7313.

31 Nature Walk

August

August Events:

Every Saturday evening - campground programs. Call the visitor center for topic and time 301-663-9388.

6 How Does My Park Grow?

Children in the Thurmont Summer Rec Program will learn about the plants and animals at Catoctin Mountain Park. Register at the Town Office or call 301-271-7313.

25 Blacksmith Demonstration

Meet at the historic WPA Blacksmith Shop and discover the art of blacksmithing. See the forge in action! Demonstrations will run from 1 to 4 PM at Camp Round Meadow, 14840 Manahan Rd, Sabillasville, MD.

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 for release at end of month

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

November

December

19 CFA Christmas Open House 5-7pm

2020 Dates: AIR applications due 2/15, Amish in park 3/2-27.

A Note from our President, Jim Robbins

Summer is in full swing and things are not slowing down. The SUCCESS youth are off and plans are already taking shape for next year. After talking with Cunningham Falls State Park, the SUCCESS youth will be responsible with keeping the Manor Area in top condition. We are waiting for the list of general items that need to be done and a more specific one for the day to day operations. If you are looking for an organization to donate to consider the SUCCESS program, one of the programs that the Catoctin Forest Alliance does on a yearly basis. It is all run by volunteers and is from 9-11am each day that the youth are in school.

Pam and I will be starting our annual trip to visit with the Amish in northern Indiana this month and always look forward to visiting with friends. The Amish do such a wonderful project, for a month (March) each year. This (2020) will be the 7th year that they have been coming to the CMP. This has involved over 150+ individuals from Nappanee, Bremen, Rochester, Kokomo and Milroy Communities. If you have not visited with them when they are here please do. We will plan to have a couple of get togethers when they are here in March, 2020. Pam and I will be off to visit the Amish in southern Indiana (Daviness County), too. This group started 2 years ago working in Cumberland National Historical Park. It will be great to see them since I could not get there this year when they were at the "GAP".

Everyone have a wonderful and safe summer. As always remember that we can always use more hands to help us.

Under Construction Submitted by Peggie Gaul, Catoctin Mountain Park Ranger



Several construction projects are/have been/or will be underway in the park that will improve the visitor experience. New water and electrical systems and a brand new swimming pool have just been installed at Camp Greentop. In addition, ceiling fans have been added to each of the cabins which will make lodging more comfortable. Similar upgrades are planned for Camp Misty Mount. A new bridge and upgraded parking lot are currently under construction at the visitor center and will be complete by early fall. Lastly, the horse trailer parking lot has been resurfaced and enlarged with new stone.

What's in a name? Submitted by Peggie Gaul, Catoctin Mountain Park Ranger

Eastern National, the cooperating association that operates the sales in the visitor center is now “America’s National Parks”. The name change became effective this month. The other change is in our new sales items. We have several new book titles, children’s T-shirts, new metal water bottles, stoneware mugs, and many other new items. Please stop by and take a look.

Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) Programs

Submitted by Peggie Gaul, Catoctin Mountain Park Ranger

The spring school season was a big success thanks to the support of CFA and park volunteers. Approximately 1,200 fourth graders from 16 different schools in Frederick County participated in a three-part program to learn about plant and animal adaptations. Every student received an EKIP pass that will provide free admission to all national parks and other federal lands for the children and their families through August 2019. Transportation funds were provided by the National Park Foundation and managed by CFA.

Catoctin Mountain Park recently selected two new Division Chiefs

Submitted by Peggie Gaul, Catoctin Mountain Park Ranger



Peggie Gaul (left) has been selected as the Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services for Catoctin Mountain Park. She will oversee operations of the park visitor center and manage the interpretive program.

Lindsey Donaldson (right) has been selected to serve as the new Chief of Resource

Management for Catoctin Mountain Park. Lindsey will provide oversight of the cultural and natural resources, helping to tell the many stories about the history of the park and the unique natural features and historic structures it contains.

Camp CATOCTIN Convenes for 4th Annual Session

Submitted by Debbie Mills, CFA Program Chairman

What do alien invaders, geology and second story windows have in common? If it is the last week in June, the answer is Camp CATOCTIN.

The 4th annual version of the Catoctin Forest Alliance Camp CATOCTIN Day Camp was held June 24 through June 28, 2019. The camp, a partnership effort between the CFA, Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park, targeted elementary age students from Westminster Elementary School. This year's camp also included students from neighboring Carroll County Schools, the Milton Hershey School and one student from Baltimore County.

Construction at Westminster Elementary School, Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park encouraged Camp Organizer Debra Mills and Camp Educators Brenda Newhouse and Amanda Frushour to reorganize the camp schedule. The altered format provided additional opportunities for hiking and traditional camp activities.

Thanks to community support, students boarded the bus and returned each day to the Meadow Branch Church, a few blocks from Westminster Elementary School. On Monday, after enjoying a snack and receiving their backpacks, campers participated in the Catoctin Mountain Park 4th grade adaptations field trip. Every child raised a hand when asked if they had ever visited a National Park, proving the success of camp orientation and that they were aware of importance of the location. After completing the modules and their Catoctin Mountain Park Jr. Ranger booklets, campers ate pizza, decorated their backpacks and enjoyed dirt pudding before heading back to Westminster.

Bridging the Watershed Educators Sandy and Bethany joined the group on Tuesday for activities at Cunningham Falls State Park Lake Area. In the morning, Sandy and Bethany taught the students how to energize the magic of plant identification keys, the importance of native plants and how alien invaders are changing the forest. After lunch, Sandy and Bethany demonstrated how aquatic macroinvertebrate species, or bugs in the water, can be used to determine the overall health of a stream. Students enjoyed a quick dip in the lake then hopped on the bus for home.

A hike from Park Central Road to Hog Rock, then on towards Cunningham Falls was the opening activity on Wednesday. After completing the hike and lunch, students decorated their picture frames, scouted the area for salamanders and applied lessons learned from the plant keys to use an animal identification key to ID their finds. Make your own sundaes were a treat at day's end.

Former Frederick County Outdoor School Principle Eddie Main's legendary geology hike opened the day on Thursday. Students enjoy hiking and learning how the mountain was beach front property a long time ago. However, they seemed to get enormous pleasure from giving Mr. Main grief about missing a turn 4 years ago. Since most of these children were in first grade at the time, their knowledge of the incident proves that Camp CATOCTIN is becoming legendary. After finding the turn, students enjoyed Taco Thursday at Chestnut Picnic Area. The day ended with a zany scavenger hunt that among other things, required adult singing of what has become the camp theme song, "They threw it out the Window."

Since the Lake Area was not available for our group on Friday, the Closing Celebration was moved to the Manor Area Pavilion at Cunningham Falls State Park. Ranger Mollie Kemp started the day with a presentation of

“Scales and Tales” highlighting the stories of injured wildlife residing under the care of Cunningham Falls State Park Staff. Parents joined the campers for lunch, cheered as the children were sworn in as National and State Park Jr. Rangers, then disbursed to enjoy an afternoon in the parks as families.



Group photo of students and staff in matching t-shirts



Students doing stream study



Relaxing after Hog Rock hike



Tiny frog caught in the stream



Just having fun

Nature Trail Project by Mary Dal-Favero

This article appeared in the July issue of "The Catoctin Banner Newzine" and is used with the permission of the author and the Newzine.



With help from the Civitan Club of Frederick and the Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the Catoctin Area Civitan Club presented the Catoctin Forest Alliance SUCCESS program a check for \$9,500 to help build an inclusive trail outside of the Thurmont Regional Library.

Pictured: JoAnn O'Toole, Bill Malone, Ginger Malone, Joe O'Toole, Jim Robbins, Lance Lewis, Mary Dal-Favero, Taylor Kime, Camille Kime, and Tami Roberts.

The Thurmont Library Nature Trail Project is collaboration between the Catoctin Forest Alliance, the Catoctin Area Civitan Club, the Civitan Club of Frederick, the Town of Thurmont, the Thurmont Regional Library, Thurmont Green Team, the Frederick County Public School Program called SUCCESS and volunteers from the community.

The SUCCESS Youth Program is one of the programs of Catoctin Forest Alliance that, for the past 6 years, has been working on projects for the Cunningham Falls State Park and Gambrill State Park, Catoctin Furnace Historical Site and the National Park, Catoctin Mountain Park. These youth are between the ages of 18-21 who have a disability who are from the SUCCESS School, part of the Frederick County School System. When asked by the library to establish an ADA trail it fell into part of the overall objectives of the SUCCESS program. This trail is a win-win where youth with disabilities are working on the trail for people with and without disabilities.

The part that ties all this together is the help of the Catoctin Area Civitan Club. Six years ago, CFA received a grant from them through the Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Chesapeake District - Civitan International, Inc. to start the SUCCESS program. This program is operated every day that the youth are in school for the entire school year and is from [9am - 11am](#). It is run by volunteers and assistance from the state and federal parks.

When it was decided that the trail at the library was workable, Jim Robbins from the Catoctin Forest Alliance came to Mary Dal-Favero of the Catoctin Area Civitan Club for assistance. She asked the Civitan Club of

Frederick to join as they work closely with the SUCCESS School in Frederick. This support of the two clubs who agreed to co-sponsor the grant for the trail was the first step along with the collaboration of the other groups mentioned above to make this trail part of the trail system for the Town of Thurmont. It will tie together the ADA Trolley Trail with the Library Trail and future trails and picnic areas in the area behind the library. If you have any questions about Civitan, please feel free to contact me (Mary Dal-Favero) at [240-620-8630](tel:240-620-8630). If you would like to learn more about the Catoctin Forest Alliance SUCCESS program of the Trail system, please contact Jim Robbins at [301-693-9703](tel:301-693-9703).

Consider Donating to CFA

To help CFA continue its programs to preserve and protect the Catoctin 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 Catoctin 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** to the address below. **The yearly membership dues are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple for the period December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2019. You can join now for \$10 per person or \$15 per couple with a membership that is good through 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