



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 12 No.1

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www.catoctinforestalliance.org

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

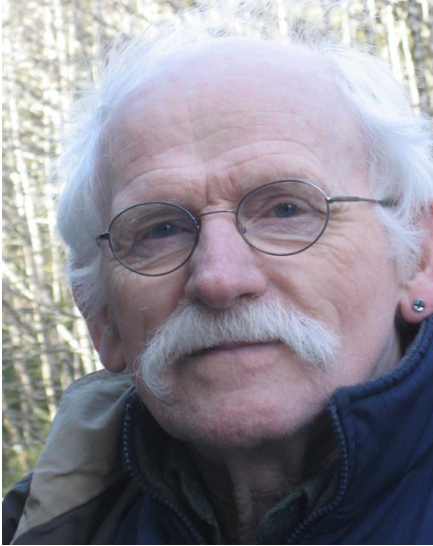
Artist in Residence



Susan Lenz, a fiber artist, has been chosen to be our Artist in Residence for 2022. Susan will reside in Catoctin Mountain Park from September 7-28. She will be holding public demonstrations and interactive sessions with the public. To learn more about Susan, you can visit her website at www.susanlenz.com.



Nancy Arbuthnot was our Artist in Residence (AIR) for 2020 and 2021. While in the park, she began work on a book of watercolor painting and haiku poems about Catoctin Mountain Park. The book is now complete and is available for sale at [Remember Me Singing: a Catoctin Mountain Alphabet - Kindle edition by Arbuthnot, Nancy. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B098765432).



Carlos Reyes, an Irish-American poet from Portland, Oregon, was our AIR artist in Catoctin Mountain Park in September 2018. Carlos has published a new book of poems. See the flyer below and visit his new website.

Hot off the presses:

Carlos has a new book of poems. This one is about his time in Alaska.

THE EBBING TIDE

Carlos Reyes has spent considerable time in Alaska, mostly in small communities such as Ketchikan, Bethel, and Sitka, and in villages like the Tsimshian Indian Community of Metakatla and the Yupik village of Kalskag, where he worked with and for the communities as a land surveyor. His last trip to Alaska was to Sitka as poet-in-residence at The Island Institute, where he was able to observe up close patrolling bald eagles, the herring fishery, and humpback whales feeding in Sitka Sound. The residency gave him a totally different encounter with the landscape than slogging through the muskeg out in the bush.



THE EBBING TIDE

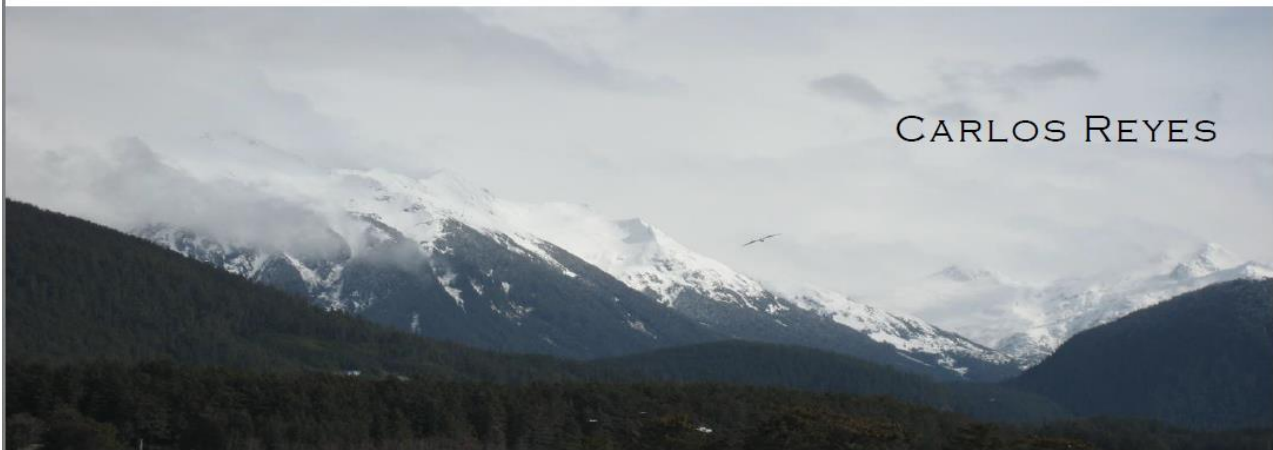
poems

"It's a great pleasure to read Carlos Reyes' poetry. I always love Reyes' truth-telling and the places he makes real."

— Sandra MacPherson

Cover photo and author photo by Karen Checkoway

CARLOS REYES



Check it out @ <https://carlos-reyes-poet.com/poetry/>

A Note from CFA President, Jim Robbins

What a wonderful time of the year. The trees are in bloom; the flowers are coming out in all their beauty and parts of mother nature are coming out of hibernation. Warm weather is just around the corner (?) and the parks are ready for visitors. The parks are expecting large numbers of visitors again this year. So, if traveling check, with the park(s) before you go.

We have wonderful programs that are running in the parks; Artist in Residence (September 7-28, 2022); the program for the SUCCESS youth working to improve both the Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain Park; and the Amish from Nappanee, IN were here for the month of March.



Owen's Creek camp site repair

Upgrades in Catoctin Mountain Park include – new trails, infrastructure work, and a centralized treatment facility. The park website has been updated and the Every Kid in the Park program is going strong. Please see the article by Rick Slade in this newsletter for additional items of interest in the park.

Mel Poole gave the Board good news about the Great Maryland Outdoors Act that was signed into law by Governor Hogan. The Great Maryland Outdoors Act is going to really help our current and future state parks. Please see Mel Poole's article in this newsletter for all the changes coming.

We are always looking for people to help us grow and help with our programs. You can use the form on the last page of this newsletter to join CFA.



SUCCESS students learn Dutch oven cooking



Witch's Brew in Dutch oven - Yum

SUCCESS students working on rain garden at the Recreation Center in Catoctin Mountain Park





Lots of big events coming up in Catoctin Mountain Park.

By Rick Slade, Catoctin Mountain Park Superintendent

A media team from the National Capital Regional Office will be in the park June 6-10 to film footage for a promotional video. The team may use some of the footage to make a follow-up video highlighting deferred maintenance projects and improvements to the park's campground and cabin camps. The team (of two) will stay in Misty Mount. It will be great for them to get a feel for the park while they put together a video that will highlight the best the park has to offer.

The park has completed design work for an \$18 million project to update water, electrical and sewer systems throughout the park. Construction is expected to start later this summer, and the project will last 18 - 24 months. This project will allow the park to continue to offer high quality visitor services for the next 40 - 50 years.

From June 18 – 26, a survey team will be in the park to collect information for a Socioeconomic Monitoring project. Catoctin is one of 24 parks selected for the first year of a new initiative to better understand patterns of use and spending by visitors across the National Park Service. If you visit the park on one of those days, don't be surprised if you are approached to complete the survey. Your input matters!



News from Annapolis

Mel Poole, CFA Board Member

I am very excited to tell you that the Great Maryland Outdoors Act has been signed into law by Governor Hogan. The Act authorized 100 new positions in the Maryland Park Service. There will also be funding for an increased number of new parks, especially near urban areas as well as three new traditional parks. This will result in major land acquisitions and funds have been provided for support personnel to accomplish the acquisitions. In addition, an asset management organization has been created to review present properties in the Maryland Park system and determine their operational and repair status. The Act results in a \$15M increase in funding for the Parks. Upon signing the bill, Governor Hogan included significant increases in both the operating and capital budgets for the MPS. In addition to the GMOA legislation, Governor Hogan also included funding in his fourth supplemental 2023 budget for 15 new positions for the Maryland Park Service:

- 2 Park Services Supervisors
- 2 Park Services Associate Lead
- 1 Park Services Associate
- 1 Natural Resource Planner
- 3 Natural Resource Techs
- 4 Park Technicians
- 2 Park Technician Supervisors

There was also a supplemental appropriation for five positions in DNR Engineering and Construction for the design of MPS projects.

The graphic on the next page defines the main highlights of the Great Maryland Outdoors Act.

GREAT MARYLAND OUTDOORS ACT

House Bill 727 - Senate Bill 541
Delegate Eric Luedtke & Senator Sarah Elfreth

The Great Maryland Outdoors Act will facilitate the development of a world-class State Park system in Maryland by making long overdue investments in staffing, maintenance, land acquisition, and more!

Relieves overcrowding in State Parks

Provides **\$30 million** for Land Acquisition to relieve overcrowding in State Parks that frequently reach capacity & creates new opportunities to expand access for all Marylanders



Reverses decades of underfunding for our State Park system

Provides **\$70 million** for conservation projects, historic preservation, transportation improvements, and increasing access to water in State Parks



Repairs and upgrades Critical State Park Infrastructure

Provides **\$80 million** for: Picnic areas, campgrounds, cabins, visitor centers, playgrounds, pavilions, beaches, bathhouses, roads, parking lots, nature centers, marinas, and more!

Adds 100 Park Rangers, Technicians, Naturalists & Historians



Establishes the Parks and Recreation Commission

Provides continuous and enduring support to the Maryland Park Service and facilitates effective and regular communication with the General Assembly



Creates Freedman's State Historical Park

Preserves and interprets the lives of Black Americans before and after the Abolition of Slavery

Develops a long-term approach and strategy to expanding and improving the State Park System



Stimulates more than **\$650 million** of economic impact in Maryland Communities



Acknowledges the role, dedication, and value of Maryland's iconic State Park Rangers

Formally recognizes the role of State Park Rangers in public safety and resource protection by designating them as Emergency Services Personnel

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 Catoclin 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 Catoclin 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, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

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