



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

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

*Newsletter of the CFA*

*Vol. 13 No.4*

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*Editor: Linda Sundergill*

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

## Fall Membership Drive

**Join or renew your membership and help support the conservation/education programs of CFA. \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. See last page for membership form. Your dollars and your volunteer time can help us a lot to fulfill our mission.**

## A Note from our President—Jim Robbins

Well summer is gone and fall is beginning to give way to winter. Before we know it will be 2024. But, before all the leaves are gone: take a hike, watch the sun come up with the dew sparkling on the leaves or just enjoy the beauty of fall. The colors are a wonderful paint brush of the beauty of nature. CFA has seen two Artists in Residence come and spend time with us this year. A mountain of people has visited the parks and the laughter and voices of youth in the outdoor programs sings throughout.



The Amish were here for the month of March for the 12<sup>th</sup> year and they did some wonderful projects. The Amish program is a win-win for Catoctin Mountain Park. The Amish pay their way here, buy food at the local markets, the parents come by bus half way through the month and pay for lodging at a local hotel. The male adults (10) give up a month's pay to come do "service". Very remarkable, I say. We received a grant from the Tourism Council of Frederick County, Inc. to bring the Amish to visit the county. Those who came were young men who had previously worked in the park (some brought their wives). There were also former Job Coaches, House Parents, and Board members. They visited ThorpWood (where they now stay) and hiked the wonderful Catoctin Mountains. At the end of the afternoon the group had "supper" with another group of Amish that have moved into the upper county of Frederick and Carroll Counties. We had about 80+ people that enjoyed a wonderful meal, great friendship and will meet again in March 2024.

The SUCCESS youth are in the middle of taking old picnic tables apart and refurbishing them. They completed the removal of old trail boxes from Catoctin Mountain Park areas. They have been doing some trail maintenance and enjoying the wonderful sounds and sights of the beauty around us.

As always, we can use your support in time or dollars to help these and other programs continue in our Parks. Please think of us when making donations this year, (we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit). If you have any questions about CFA, our programs or questions in general please visit our web site [www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org).

## Artist in Residence at Cunningham Fall State Park Presents Programs—Invasive Inks

Cindy Stockton Moore was the CFA Artist in Residence at Cunningham Falls State Park from September 10-24, 2023. She is a Philadelphia based artist who works with locally foraged, aqueous media to create multimedia animations, works on paper, and site-specific installations.



During her two-week residency, she presented two programs: a 'Drawing with Nature Workshop' at Thurmont Regional Library on September 16<sup>th</sup> and an invasive ink program at Cunningham Falls State Park on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, as part of National Public Lands Day.

After picking up windfall specimens (leaves, acorns, pine cones, etc.) workshop participants used homemade charcoal, reed pens and foraged inks to draw and paint the windfall finds from the trail.



Experimenting with invasive inks at Cunningham Falls State Park, September 23, 2023. (Youth photo used with parental permission)

Ink test on handmade paper by Patrick Hayes, September 2023



Cindy Stockton Moore, Invasive Ink Palette, Cunningham Falls State Park, 2023



If you are interested in being an Artist in Residence in either Catoctin Mountain Park or Cunningham Falls State Park, you can download the 2024 application [HERE](#).



## A Fall Note from Shelley

Shelley Miller, Membership and Fundraising  
Chairperson



Hello CFA Family... If you have already renewed your membership with CFA, thank you! Membership enrollment has a positive impact on many levels supporting the programs of CFA. Joining or membership renewal is easy. You may go to the CFA website, [www.catoclinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoclinforestalliance.org), to join or renew. Or, you may send the filled-out newsletter page to the CFA PO Box with a check made out to CFA. Or you may contact me directly ([Shellbio@aol.com](mailto:Shellbio@aol.com)) for assistance. As always, please share CFA membership information with anyone interested in preserving the Catoclin Mountain forest for present and future generations. Many exciting things continue to happen in CFA and we hope you will be a part of them!

### **In retrospect:**

#### **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends**

CFA participated in the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event by accepting a \$5 donation in exchange for a coupon used on the day of the event. Although CFA did not have a table set up in store this year, we wish to thank the individuals who sold and bought the coupons ahead of time. The store event took place Oct. 18, 2023.

### **\*Upcoming Opportunities\*:**

#### **Gift Wrapping Fund Raiser at Boscov's**

CFA is now preparing to participate in the Boscov's holiday gift wrapping service. We are looking for volunteers to serve shifts at the gift-wrapping table. Anyone willing to serve please contact me, Shelley ([Shellbio@aol.com](mailto:Shellbio@aol.com)), and I will be sure to include you in our schedule which is still being determined. Boscov's provides all needed giftwrap and supplies. We volunteer to offer the service of wrapping gifts that folks have purchased from the store. It is an especially fun experience. One, two, or three people may comfortably volunteer together. I'll happily pair you with folks if you would like. Please consider serving at the table individually, with a friend, or with a significant other (or spouse) and enjoy quality time serving the community while helping to support the CFA educational outreach and preservation programs!

#### **CFA Holiday Gathering and Pre-Valentine's Day Groundhog Day Event**

Many of you have asked about the CFA Holiday Gathering and the annual Pre-Valentine's Day Groundhog Day event. We are in the process of entertaining ideas for these...Look for more to come!

#### **Want to volunteer for the EKO fourth grade field trips?**

CFA's support of the Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) program at Catoclin Mountain Park has been a long standing one. Anyone interested in volunteering with the EKO fourth grade fieldtrips please contact Carrie Andresen-Strawn ([Carrie\\_Andresen@nps.gov](mailto:Carrie_Andresen@nps.gov)).

**CFA remains a vital group of caring individuals who are making a difference in our community. Please consider being and active part of this incredible service organization. Join or renew your membership today!**



# News from Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Park

Submitted by Claudia Padilla, Lead Ranger

See calendar of events using link below:

[Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks: October Events and More \(govdelivery.com\)](http://govdelivery.com)

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club tackling some BIG trees in Cunningham Falls State Park.



Frederick County Public Schools SUCCESS program students repairing picnic tables at Cunningham Falls State Park.





Friends of Cunningham Falls & Gambrill State Parks volunteers run their annual Tie Dye fundraising event next to the busy lake area.

Tree identification walk (possibly the last of this season) at Gambrill State Park by the Frederick Forestry Board.

## Fourth Friday Forest Walk with the Frederick County Forestry Board

**10 AM @Gambrill State Park**

For details and registration, please scan the QR Code or visit our website.

November 5th the Friends of Cunningham Falls & Gambrill State Parks host their 5k/10k Fun Run/Walk to support the parks. They're always looking for extra volunteers to guide runners, they can email [patcmd@yahoo.com](mailto:patcmd@yahoo.com) for details.



**Frederick.ForestryBoard.org**



# News from Catoctin Mountain National Park

By Phillip S. Greenwalt, Chief of Interpretation and Education

“I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees”  
– Henry David Thoreau

As I sit at my desk on the east side of Catoctin Mountain Park, I am struck by the fact that 2023 is 10 weeks from being over. What a year and a transition for the Division of Interpretation and Education. From hiring two new permanent staff to setting the foundation for a third permanent addition to the division, to the return of education and pop-up programs, to the start of new projects to better serve the visitors. This year has been tremendous!

The park hired a new volunteer coordinator and lead park ranger, Richard Condon, who arrived at the end of August from Reconstruction Era National Historical Park in South Carolina. Originally from the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area, he has familiarity with the local region, having lived previously in Frederick, Maryland and attended Shepherd University in West Virginia. Rachel, our Community Volunteer Ambassador has done an exceptional job with the volunteer program management and is bringing Rich up-to-speed. The park is excited for the energy, drive, and future programming that Rich will bring to the operation.

Along with Rich, John McCarthy joins the staff permanently and will provide coverage of the visitor center, assistance with all interpretive programming, and represent the division on the park safety committee. His knowledge of the park and history will help with what the division offers to visitors in the coming year.

While on the topic of programming, what an autumn of offerings the park has on the mountain. From a full-slate of environmental education programs at Chestnut Picnic Area, to pop-up programs on weekends around the park, to the return of campfire programs through October. Rangers are out on the trails, at the various trailhead parking lots, and at the visitor center waiting to unfold the stories of the mountain with you.

I speak for the entire division—and the park—when I invite you to the mountain to experience the changing of colors, the first of a few new trail connectors, and a moment to just walk and experience the beauty of central Maryland. As the famous poet Henry David Thoreau once wrote, “I took a walk in the woods and came out taller” Catoctin Mountain Park rangers invite you to do the same. You never know what that positive experience will bring.

See you on the mountain!

Phillip S. Greenwalt  
Chief of Interpretation and Education

# 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 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** with notation "**Membership**" to the address below. The yearly membership dues are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple for the period December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024.

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