



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 9 No. 4 October 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

SUCCESS –by CFA President, Jim Robbins

Well the trail at the Thurmont library is now looking like a trail. The crew has been removing stone, limbs and getting the trail ready for Frederick County Paving to place the 3” of millings and 3” of surface asphalt on the trail. The youth helped will the millings and smoothing of the stone on the sides of the trail. We planted additional pollinator plants, spread about 25 yards of mulch along the sides of the trail and placed stones in places to hold the mulch in place. The youth will be working on a rain garden later this year to control the water coming off the roof. With the help from a grant from DAR we will be re-working the pollinator garden at the back of the library.



We are now working a placing milkweed seeds in cold stratification. This is a process that simulates the conditions of winter and allows us the opportunity to get an early start on the planting of the plants in the spring. The way that this is done is by placing seeds (spaced about 1” apart) on a damp paper towel, placing that into a zip locked bag and then into the fridge. After about 30-40 days the seeds should be removed, planted in 2”- 4” peat pots. This gives the milkweed a head start on planting in the spring.

We will start on trail work next week as well as making molding/casting demo kits for the Catoctin Furnace. For anyone that would like to help, we will be working in the pollinator garden at the Catoctin Mountain Park on the 13th of November. Also on that date, we have a group of people from MOM’s Organic Market working on barberry removal along the orienteering trail off Park Central. Meet at the visitor center 9: am.

See next few pages for a photo log of the progress on the Library Trail.

Work begins on the trail at the Thurmont Library



One more big rock to remove



Trail cleared and ready for base stone



Working the stone base



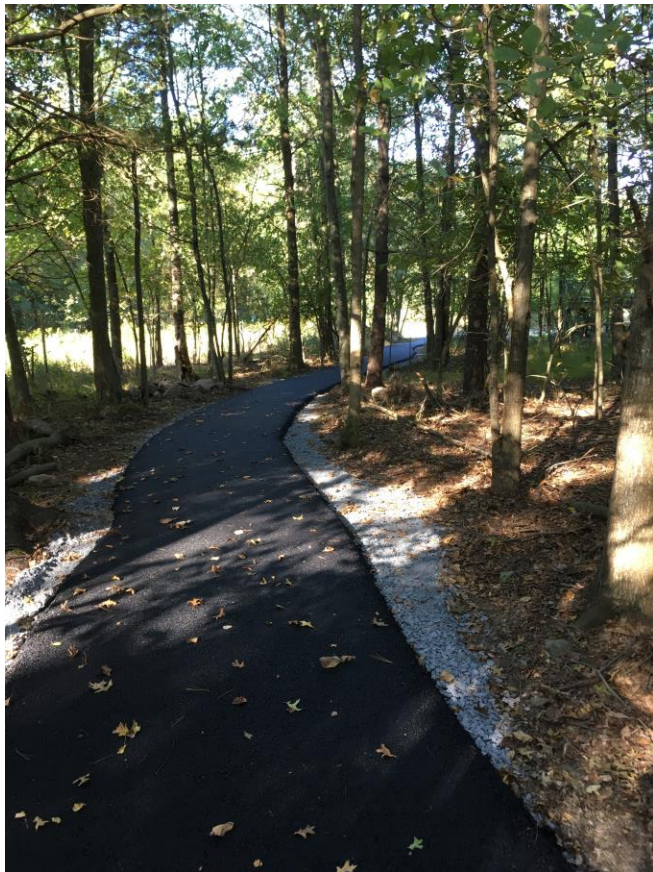
Part of trail before stone base is laid



Laying the stone base



Crew rests after stone base and blacktop finished



Winding trail



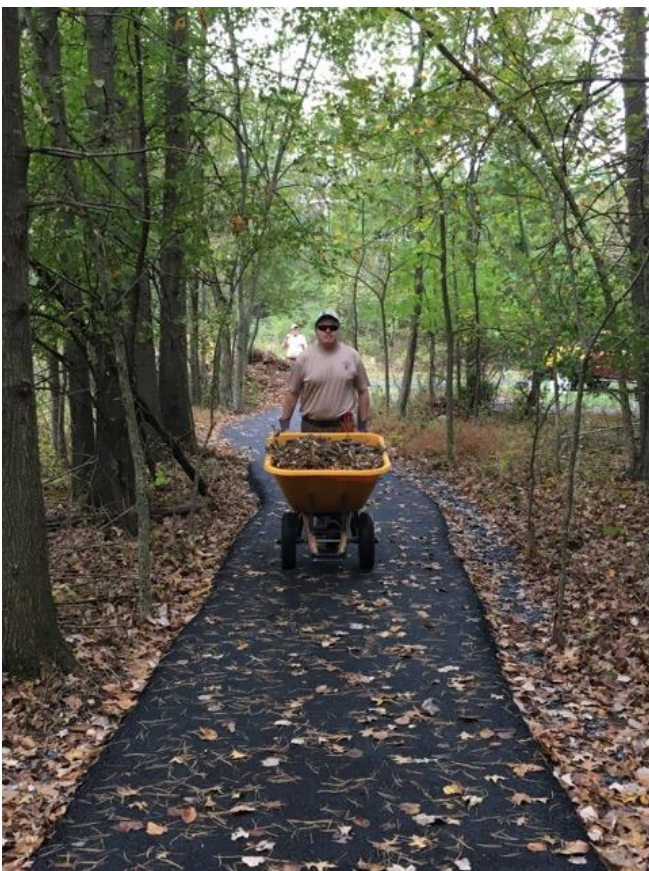
Planting flowers along the trail



Section of plants along the trail



Unloading mulch



Mulching the sides of the trail

Many thanks for a job well done to the SUCCESS students, their teachers and especially to Jim Robbins, CFA President, for his leadership and mentoring.

Upcoming CFA Activities by Shelley Miller

Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble

The Catoclin Forest Alliance (CFA) will once again serve at the Frederick **Barnes & Noble gift wrapping** table this holiday season. The specific dates and times are:

- *4 pm-close on Friday Dec. 13th
- *all day (open-close) on Saturday Dec. 14th
- *4 pm-close on Sunday Dec. 15
- *open-4 pm Monday Dec. 23rd

Anyone interested in volunteering for any amount of time is welcome. The Frederick Barnes and Noble is located in the FSK Mall at 5500 Buckeystown Pike in Frederick, MD. No experience is necessary and all paper and needed items (including tables, chairs, scissors, tape, and gift enclosure cards) are supplied by Barnes and Noble. CFA needs only to supply the volunteers. Volunteers are welcome to stay one hour or the whole time. CFA welcomes your involvement whatever it may be.

The gift wrapping table operates on a donation only basis, with all donations going to the giftwrapping organization. Please share CFA's participation in this fundraiser with friends and family who may enjoy shopping at Barnes and Noble during the times CFA will be serving. Whether you wish to volunteer at the gift wrapping table or simply support CFA by visiting the gift wrapping table, you are welcome! Barnes and Noble has a lovely café. It is a wonderful place to relax, enjoy a hot beverage, and write holiday notes to friends and family. They also offer free Wi-Fi.

To sign up to volunteer at the gift wrapping table please contact Shelley Miller by email at Shellbio@aol.com or phone 301-471-7434 (call or text). A schedule will be created and shared aiming for at least two volunteers to be present at any given time (the table can accommodate three or four wrappers if anyone wishes to work with more than one other person). You are welcome to join us for all or portions of the gift wrapping opportunities. Hope to see you at Barnes and Noble!

Holiday Open House

The **CFA Holiday Open House** will be held on Thursday Dec. 19 from 5:00 pm-8 pm at the Lewis property (317 West Main Street in Thurmont). Music by Gene Sarno and Steve Hess (<http://www.sarno-n-hess.com/>) will be enjoyed 5:30-7:00. We will once again hold a raffle of donated items (to support future CFA programs). We hope CFA members, friends, and family will stop by anytime to share holiday joy and light refreshments.

CFA Springfield Manor Event

Don't forget to save the date for the (third) **Annual CFA Groundhog Day Eve (Pre-Valentine's Day) Event at Springfield Manor** on Friday Jan. 31, 2020 from 5-9 pm. There will be trivia from 7-9! Whenever purchasing food or drink that evening please mention you are supporting the efforts of CFA. A portion of the proceeds from sales that evening will be donated back to CFA in support of upcoming educational outreach programs. Get those trivia teams ready! Hope to see you (and friends and family) there!

A CFA sponsored Speaker Event at the Thurmont Library is coming again this January

Please plan to join us for

A Continuation of An Informative Talk on Climate Change by Joyce Tuten

When: Tuesday Jan. 14 and Jan 28 at 7 p.m.

Where: Thurmont Library (76 E Moser Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788)

As you read this, climate change is threatening our world, and we have a moral obligation to act. While you've probably read and heard a lot about climate change, the science behind it is complicated. Joyce gave a talk for us last year and is joining us again for updates and more information. Come spend 60 minutes connecting the dots between science, our climate, people and planet – and the solutions. Joyce Tuten is a high school science teacher who is expert at teaching science to non-science people. She is also a member of the Middletown, MD Sustainability Committee, a NOAA Climate Steward Educator and a trained Climate Reality Project Leader. Joyce will explain the science of the greenhouse effect and global warming and what humans are doing to cause the climate to change. Short but information-dense, her presentation will bring to life the chain of events happening around the planet. And the solutions you can be a part of. Walk away as a new ambassador for understanding and an agent for change that will last generations. We are hoping to add a component regarding pollinator gardens. There is a possibility that the talk may qualify for Master Gardener or Master Naturalist continuing education hours (tbd).

Note: In case of inclement weather, please check the Thurmont Regional Library FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Thurmont-Regional-Library/115731665175353>

CFA received a Pollinator Garden grant from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) by Shelley Miller

CFA was awarded an \$800 grant from the Maryland DAR. The grant will support the enhancement of two existing CFA pollinator gardens. There is also the potential for an additional future garden to be established. Thank you to all (in CFA and DAR) who worked toward receiving this grant and thank you to the state DAR for allowing CFA this opportunity. We look forward to the pollinator garden collaboration volunteer opportunities and educational outreach opportunities this upcoming year! We invite you to be a part of these success stories as volunteer opportunities arise. DAR may even display pictures of these wonderful adventures at their State Conference! Pollinator gardens enhance the environment on many levels.

Thank you

Thank you to all who are contributing, in a myriad of ways, to the many positive efforts supported by CFA! Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to CFA if you would like to help financially support the continuation of efforts such as these. Again-Thank you!

New Video of AIR Poet Reading Poem Inspired by Park Visitors

by Carrie Andresen- Strawn, Park Ranger, Education Program Coordinator

What do you like about Catoctin Mountain Park? Serenade your senses and find out what others love about the park by listening to “Catoctin Mountain”, a poem written by our 2019 Artist in Residence Sarah McCartt-Jackson in collaboration with park visitors. Click on the following link to view the video.

<https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=58BE8A23-0FF5-150F-3D3E2875191058E3>

[Video Description: Natural scenes including forested trails, streams, and animals appear in coordination with a poem.]

Video Producer: Christopher Cook, Park Volunteer. Park Rangers Lorne Haines, Peggie Gaul & Ron Harvey did the behind the scenes research to ensure that everything was done to NPS compliance. Lorne spent dozens of hours to put this project forth (probably more than a 100 hours, as he really wanted to get experience doing this).

The Artist in Residence program is supported by Catoctin Mountain Park and the Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA). Thank you Sarah McCartt-Jackson for sharing your talents with us. The Artist in Residence program will be accepting applications for 2020 soon with a due date of February 15, 2020. For more information check out the following websites.

Park Website: <https://www.nps.gov/cato/getinvolved/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence.htm>

Catoctin Forest Alliance: <http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org/index.php/artist-in-residence>



News from Catoctin Mountain Park by Peggie Gaul, Chief of Interpretation and Visitors Services

October programs:

The park staff and volunteers have been busy delivering curriculum-based field trips to fourth grade students from Frederick County Elementary Schools. Also known as Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) programs, these field trips help the students learn about plants and animals in the park and the adaptations that make our forest a good place for them to live.

November Programs:

November 1 Storytime and Hike – Catoctin Mountain Park will partner with the Thurmont Library to share stories, songs, and a hike with preschoolers. The program begins at 10:30 am at the National Park Service Visitor Center, 14707 Park Central Road, Thurmont, MD 21788.

November 9, 10, 16, and 17 Orienteering Classes - Catoctin Mountain Park will offer basic orienteering classes from 1-4 pm. The classes will consist of approximately 1 hour of hands-on instruction followed by an opportunity to try out the new skills on the orienteering course. Individuals who are interested in learning how to use a map and compass should call the National Park Service Visitor Center at 301-663-9388 to sign up. Space is limited.

Ribbon Cutting for New Parking Lot at Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor’s Center

submitted by Peggie Gaul

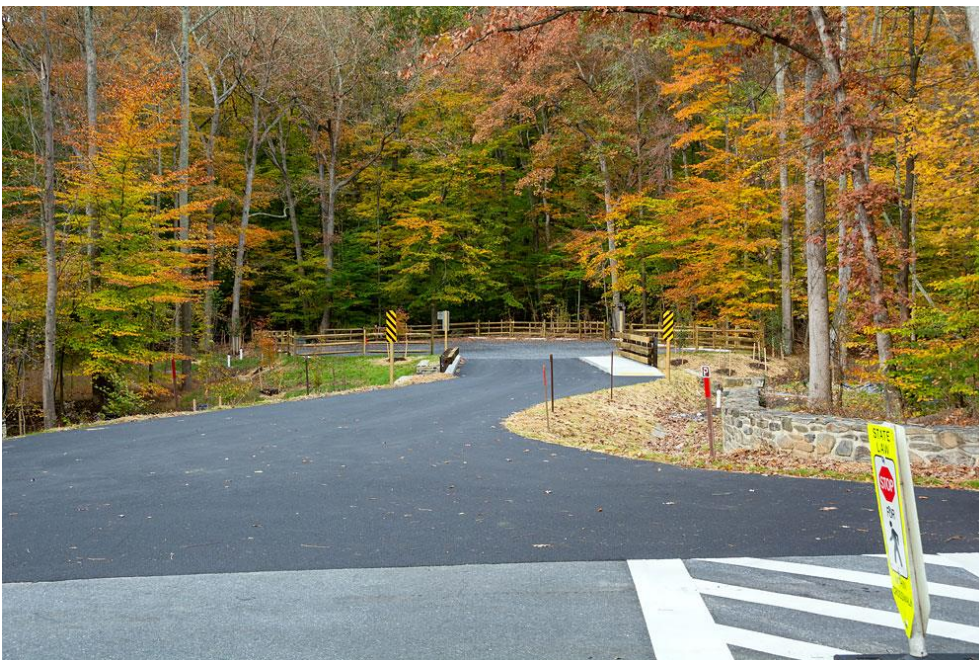
The parking lot renovation at the Visitor Center is complete. A “ribbon cutting” took place on Friday, October 11.



Pictured L to R:
Chief Ranger Jeff Filosa,
Chief of Interpretation and
Visitor Services Peggie
Gaul, and Facilities Manager
Troy Strawn.



Before and after photos of the new Visitor Center parking lot and bridge (photos taken about a year apart)





CFA/Catoctin Mountain Park Calendar 2019

November

- 1 Storytime and Hike-Catoctin Mountain Park will partner with the Thurmont Library to share stories, songs, and a hike with preschoolers. The program begins at 10:30 am at the National Park Service Visitor Center, 14707 Park Central Road, Thurmont, MD 21788.
- 9 Orienteering Classes at Catoctin Mountain Park. Meet at Visitor's Center 1-4pm
- 10 Orienteering Classes at Catoctin Mountain Park. Meet at Visitor's Center 1-4pm
- 13 Work Day on Pollinator Garden. Meet at Visitor's Center at 9am.
- 16 Orienteering Classes at Catoctin Mountain Park. Meet at Visitor's Center 1-4pm
- 17 Orienteering Classes at Catoctin Mountain Park. Meet at Visitor's Center 1-4pm

December

- 13 Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble 4pm until 10pm, contact shellbio@aol.com
- 14 Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble 9am until 10pm contact shellbio@aol.com
- 15 Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble 4pm until 7pm contact shellbio@aol.com
- 19 CFA Christmas Open House 5-8pm with music by Sarno and Hess from 5:30-7pm
- 23 Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble 9am until 4pm contact shellbio@aol.com
- 31 Membership fees are due (see page 10)

January 2020

- 14 Climate Change Talk by Joyce Tuten at Thurmont Library 7pm (see page 6)
- 31 CFA Annual Groundhog Day Eve (Pre-Valentine's Day) event at Springfield Manor 5-7pm

February

- 15 Artist in Residence applications due

March

- 2-27 Amish working in park

Professors Propose Strategies for Improving National Park Service's Fiscal Condition

submitted by Mel Poole



Professors from Harvard and Colorado State University have laid out the steps they believe can lift the cloud of financial instability off of the National Park Service.

Use the link below to get the full report.

<https://www.nationalparkstraveler.org/2019/10/professors-propose-strategies-improving-national-park-services-fiscal-condition>

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, 2019 to December 31, 2020.**

**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