



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 4 No. 1 January 2014

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

Overview of the Year Ahead by Jim Robbins, CFA Vice President

Well here we are in 2014 and what a year CFA has planned--another season of working with Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain Park. We continue to need input from our members and those interested in the preservation and promotion of the health of the Catoctin Mountain forest for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. General membership meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the following months: February, May, August and November. Board meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of each month and the newsletter is sent out 4 times a year (January, April, July and October).

We are a small organization, small in number, but we do a great many things and need people who have an interest in helping us work toward continued health of the mountains. Some of the programs that we have are Artist in Residence Program, Trout in the Classroom, First Bloom, CFA Scholarship Fund, CFA Memorial Fund, CFA Day of Service (May 10, 2014), working with a number of other youth organizations on projects in the Parks, Season 101 for youth from the city to understand the mountain and the changes (seasons) that it goes through and a new program working with the Frederick County Public Schools - SUCCESS program. All of these programs can use additional people to help out. We are also looking for new projects that relate to the

forest itself, i.e. invasive species, diseases that affect the native species, forest undergrowth, new trails, stream erosion and stream temperature changes, the effect of Hemlock loss along the streams and the list goes on and on.



Practicing in the Blacksmith Shop

Kate Thomas, Barb Ruppert, Debbie Mills and I are involved in **Seasons 101** program. Seasons 101 is entering its third season (winter). The third season was held on January 13, 2013 and consisted of participants measuring the growth of their tree and the growth of themselves, activities at the Blacksmith shop, lunch over an open fire (warm soup), a hike from the falls to the Visitors Center and then home with some great memories of the day.



Lunch prepared over a campfire.



Seasons 101 participants take photos of their adventure.

SUCCESS is a new program and will cover the whole school year. Youth in the **SUCCESS** program will be doing projects in the mountain for 2 hours (9-11am) each day that the school system is open and that the park is open. This is a learning program for the youth to help them develop skills that they will be able to use when they graduate. We will be doing trail work, cleaning out the mill race at the Owens Creek sawmill back to the sloth pond and a trail to the sloth pond from the sawmill that will connect with the Deerfield Nature Loop, painting and/or staining buildings, barberry control, opening the building for the season, and trail work with the Youth Conservation Corp. Additions will be added as the program continues to develop. The youth will not only do the above projects but learn why they are important to the mountains, develop leadership skills, learn the history of the mountains and take ownership in the mountains and Park. The main thing is that they have FUN in doing all of this. If you want to do something that is very rewarding for body, mind and spirit, as a human being, this is for you. Whatever time you can devote to this project will make a difference.

COME HELP OUT WITH CFA'S 2ND ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE

On May 10, 2014, the Catoclin Forest Alliance will hold its second annual "Day of Service" at Catoclin Mountain Park. Participants will perform tasks that will help the Park to open for the 2014 season. This year's list of tasks has not yet been generated but last year, cabins were power washed and stained, mattress covers were replaced and more than ½ an acre of barberry was uprooted and removed. It is anticipated that similar tasks will be undertaken this year. There is no lower age limit for participants but all will be expected to work for four to five hours that day. The work is

usually such that younger children would not be able to contribute but parents can decide on an individual basis if their child will be able to help and not hinder the work effort.



Changing mattress covers at last year's Day of Service

Anyone interested in participating should send an email to jimsundergill@comcast.net to get on the distribution list for upcoming announcements about early registration and tasks to be worked. Last year few of the participants were CFA members. It is hoped that this year more of our membership will want to help the Park in accordance with our CFA goals. As was done last year, the CFA will provide a pizza lunch for all participants.



Cunningham Falls State Park Welcomes New Manager

On October 2, 2013 Cunningham Fall State Park welcomed their new Manager Mark Spurrier. Mark said that coming back to Cunningham Falls State Park is like coming home. He worked here in the Scales and Tails program (when Cindy Ecker was Park Manager) before he took an Assistant Manager position at Deep Creek Lake in Western Maryland. Cunningham Falls State Park is one of CFA's primary partners and we look forward to working with Mark in the years to come.

The Maryland Park Service has also announced that the new Western Region Manager (Mark's boss) will be Darrell Anthony (replacing Cindy Ecker) who moves over from the Central Region.

For more information about Cunningham Falls State Park, go to:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/cunningham.asp>

Contact: Karis King
410-260-8001 office 410-507-7526 cell
kking@dnr.state.md.us

Salvage Program to Begin at Cunningham Falls State Park Manor Area

Thurmont, Md. (January 13, 2014)

The Manor area at Cunningham Falls State Park will be closed to the public due to an approved salvage program for downed and hazardous trees. The nature and purpose of the timber harvest is to remove dead or dying trees resulting from storm damage from Hurricane Sandy. The project will promote natural regeneration, improve biodiversity, and ensure visitor safety in the Manor Area. The project will begin January 15, 2014 and will take several weeks to complete. All day use areas, camping facilities, and hiking trails in the Manor area will be closed until the project is completed by March 01, 2014. The William Houck area of Cunningham Falls State Park will remain open during this time and will not be impacted by the salvage operation. The managed hunting area is accessible from outlying parking areas. For any questions, please call the Cunningham Falls Office at 301-271-7574.

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The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is the state agency responsible for providing natural and living resource-related services to citizens and visitors. DNR manages nearly one-half million acres of public lands and 17,000 miles of waterways, along with Maryland's forests, fisheries and wildlife for maximum environmental, economic and quality of life benefits. A national leader in land conservation, DNR-managed parks and natural, historic and cultural resources attract 11 million visitors annually. DNR is the lead agency in Maryland's effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay, the state's number one environmental priority. Learn more at www.DNR.Maryland.gov.



Featured Club Member by Rob Gilford

CFA has recently begun to offer Club Memberships to organizations. **The Friends of Big Hunting Creek (FBHC)** was the first to sign up. The FBHC is a non-profit organization that works to restore, maintain and preserve Big Hunting Creek, to ensure the best possible fishing for all, forever. Big Hunting Creek is steeped with history. It's the birth place of a national conservation organization, The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock, whose monument to that group's founder, Joe Brooks, is pictured to the left. It's been fished by presidents and dignitaries, as well as thousands of anglers from around the country. It was the first "fly fishing only" stream in the state, the first "catch and release" stream in the state, and one of the first "fly fishing only, catch and release" streams in the US. FBHC strives to protect and preserve this valuable natural resource for generations to come.

The most recent threat to the stream has been an invasive algae species known as Didymo, often transported to new areas on the boots and equipment of the people who use the resource. FBHC, in cooperation with the Catoctin Forest Alliance, Maryland Fisheries, and the National Park Service, has taken on the task of maintaining boot wash stations positioned along both Big Hunting Creek and Owens Creek, that will help curb the spread of this potentially devastating algae.

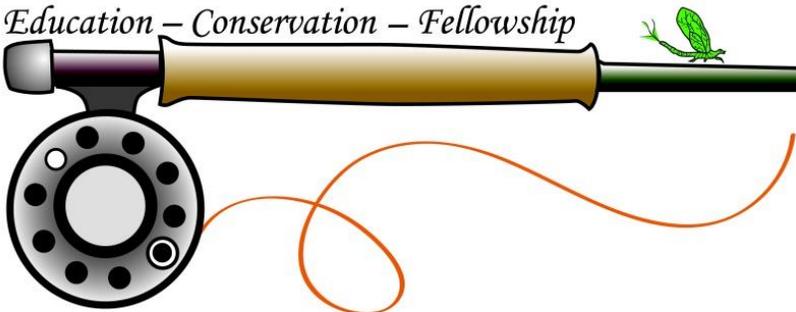
In a year's time FBHC will use over 600 lbs of table salt to produce around 2600 gallons of the solution that is used in these stations to sterilize equipment before and after use in these two streams flowing through Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain Park. This project alone will involve over 150 volunteer man hours to properly maintain the stations.

In the coming year FBHC hopes to work with Maryland Fisheries Biologists to further study the effects of Didymo on Big Hunting Creek. The algae has gained a strong hold on other waters around Maryland, but after being identified in Big Hunting Creek in 2012, it has not been detected again. For now the streams in our watershed are safe, but FBHC will continue stand guard.

We thank the FBHC for joining our organization and look forward to working with them toward our common goals. If you would like to learn more about FBHC, go to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Big-Hunting-Creek/200029646801315>

POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Education – Conservation – Fellowship



Potomac Valley Fly Fishers Donate to CFA Scholarship Fund

The Potomac Valley Fly Fishers have made a generous \$1000 donation to the Community Foundation for the CFA Scholarship Fund. Each year a local environmental studies student is chosen to receive money from the scholarship fund. We sincerely thank the Potomac Valley

Fly Fishers (PVFF) for their donation which will help to educate future stewards of our forests and streams. For more information about the PVFF go to: <http://www.pvflyfish.org/>



Former CFA Artist-in-Residence to Speak at Fox Haven

Robert Strasser, biologist, artist and champion for the American Chestnut Tree, will present the ecological, economic and cultural history of the American Chestnut with an open Q&A. This session is pertinent for educators, naturalists or anyone else who shares an interest in the role that this majestic tree plays in our country. To register for any of these programs, contact Fox Haven at info@foxhavenlearningcenter.com or 240.490.5484

All sessions are open to the public. Suggested donation of \$5 at the door.

All donations go to scholarship funds for farm-based education. Light refreshments will be provided.

All of the series will be held at the Fox Haven Dairy Parlor, 3630 Poffenberger Rd, Jefferson MD

For more information go to: <http://www.foxhavenlearningcenter.org/content/american-chestnut-and-blight>

Date: Sunday, February 9, 2014 - 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Robert Strasser was a Catoclin Mountain Park Artist-in-Residence in October 2011 and is from Frederick, MD. He took studio ceramics courses as a college undergraduate, as well as art history and philosophy of art. More recent components of his ongoing education and development as a ceramic artist, include a four month residency in Japan in 2001-20012, as well as various workshops in studio ceramics and sculpture. Robert likes to include elements of natural objects found in nature and capture them in clay.

Art piece: Natural elements in Clay Ceramic



Join CFA

We'd love to have you join us in our mission to protect the Catoctin Mountain forest. As you can see, we have lots of programs planned for 2014. Your support would be a great benefit to us and the forest.

To join CFA, please send the membership application form and a check made out to **Catoctin Forest Alliance** to the address below.

CFA, C/O Linda Sundergill
Membership Chairman
7015 Sunday's Lane
Frederick, MD 21702

Dues Schedule:

Joining Month	Per Person	Per Couple	Club Membership
Dec- Feb.	\$20	\$30	\$50
Mar-May	\$15	\$25	45
June-Aug	\$10	\$20	40
Sept-Nov.	\$5	\$15	35

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Committee Interest

Strategic Planning ____

Membership ____

Conservation/Education ____

Fundraising ____

Artist in Residence ____

Marketing/Publicity ____

Information Technology ____

Finance ____

CFA Website Visit our website at www.catoctinforall.org

