



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 4 No. 4 October 2014

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

## Overview of CFA Activities by Jim Robbins, President

Catoctin Forest Alliance has been very busy the past few months -- grant writing, putting together a program for SUCCESS youth in the Parks, Seasons 101, an Art Show at Elizabeth Prongas' Studio, gearing-up for Trout in the Classroom, participating in the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show and the Community Volunteer Program at the Thurmont Library. We continue to work with our Partners and interns in the Park. Our organization is seeking additional members to help in areas of interest and to give us ideas for projects that are of concern to you and our Parks. The Artist-In-Residence artwork will soon be displayed at the Manor Area Visitor Center, in Cunningham Falls State Park, on a permanent basis. A fundraiser is planned for this spring and will need help with that. CFA will need to raise dollars so that we can continue having great programs, internships, and help the Parks with needs to keep them moving forward.

Our *next meeting* for all everyone (members and non-members) who is interested in working for the health of the mountain will be at **5:30-6:30pm on October 29, 2014 (Wednesday) at Camp Green Top Recreation Hall in Catoctin Mountain Park.** We need your time, talents and dollars (we are a 501(c) 3 organization) to help our programs to continue to grow. Please plan on attending to help your organization grow and promote our mission; *"to preserve and promote the health of the Catoctin Mountain forest for the benefit of present and future generations."* If you have questions, contact [jimrobbins@comcast.net](mailto:jimrobbins@comcast.net) or 301-693-9703.

## Catoctin Forest Alliance Selected for National Park Foundation's Park Partners Project by Jim Robbins, President

Catoctin Forest Alliance is one of eight local philanthropic park partners to participate in the 2014 Park Partners Project of the National Park Foundation.

The Park Partners Project provides selected Friends Groups with capacity building through strategic consulting and training on best practices in governance, fund-raising, and marketing, resulting in more effective organizations and stronger partnerships. The Park Partners Project is just one way in which the National Park Foundation provides technical assistance and support to national park Friends Groups.

In addition to Catoctin Forest Alliance, the 2014 Park Partners Project participants are:

- Cabrillo National Monument Conservancy (California)
- First Flight Society (North Carolina)
- Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds (Colorado)
- Friends of Oregon Caves and Chateau (Oregon)
- Friends of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (North Dakota)
- Nature Fund for National Parks (National)
- Rock Creek Conservancy (Washington, D.C.)

## Seasons 101 by Jim Robbins

Seasons 101 has been re-vamped. We will be working with the YMCA on this program. I would like to thank Barb Ruppert for all her work and continued help with this program. By the time we are done with all the “red tape”, we will have our first new version of Seasons 101 starting in March 2015. Our plans are to have 6 programs during 2015. Buses will leave from the YMCA in Frederick and Hagerstown on Saturdays to bring participants for the program which will run from 10-2pm. The investment for this program is \$204.00 for each Saturday per location. Examples of the program are: March--Fishing and Fly Tying; April--Orienteering; May--Water Testing or Blacksmithing; September-- Creek Explorations; October-- Photo Safari; and November-- Geology Hike. Help is always needed and your ideas and input are welcomed.

## SUCCESS by Jim Robbins

This program started about a month ago and is going strong. So far the youth have learned about:

- personal protective equipment from a member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, (Rush Williamson)
- trail safety and hazards from plants and animals by a Ranger from Cunningham Falls State Park (Eric Creter)
- cutting tools – grass cutter, bow saws, pruning saws, hand pruners, looping shears, pole clippers, multi-tool, file sharpening and tool safety by myself.

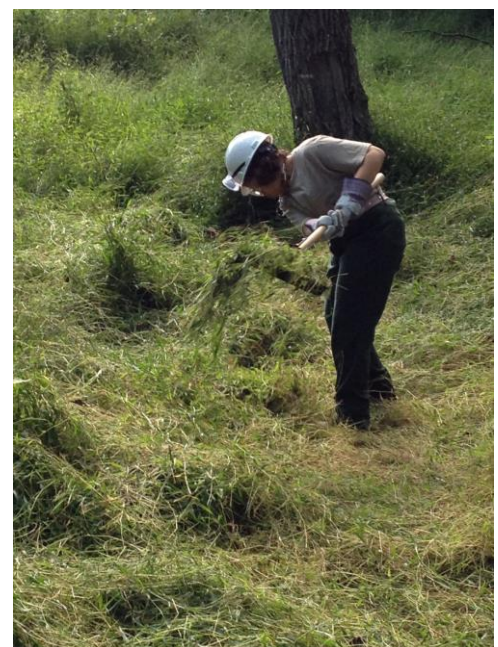
The youth have also been doing hands on trail work using the tools on which they were instructed. October 6-10 and October 20-24 they were scheduled for working on CPR and First Aid. This course was taught by Zeke Zarrella (Scout Leader & Red Cross Instructor) and Beth and John Ruppel, (both EMT's). During the week of October 13-16, 2014 they will begin work on a trail in Cunningham Falls State Park for people with disabilities. The youth are having fun, learning by having fun and being outdoors.

The SUCCESS Program is funded by two (2) grants; one (1) from the Catoctin Area Civitan Club and one (1) from the Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – Chesapeake District – Civitan International, Incorporated. By the end of December, the youth will have learned about 22 different tools and used all of them. Starting in January until the middle of March the youth will be working on building picnic tables and planting boxes for use on the trail for people with disabilities. From the middle of March until the end of the school year, they will be doing trail maintenance and gaining experience. But the end of the school year is not the end of the program for these youth. Stay tuned for more information on the program as it becomes available and see what is possible for these youth.



*Left: SUCCESS students get instruction on the use of hand tools from Jim Robbins.*

*Right: The instruction is put into practice.*





**SUCCESS Students Learn to Do Trail Work**

## CFA Art Exhibit—Please Join Us



Light refreshments will be served  
& Raffles for special prizes will be available.

At the Art Studio  
14726 Old Frederick Road  
Rocky Ridge, MD 21778

From Route 15, North or South  
Take Route 76 (Motters Station Road)  
Turn Right onto Old Frederick Road.  
Studio is about a mile on the right,  
301-271-4459

The mission of the Catoctin Forest Alliance is to  
preserve and promote the health of the Catoctin  
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CFA is a 501-C3 non-profit organization  
[www.catoctinforall.org](http://www.catoctinforall.org)

Elizabeth Prongas  
14726 Old Frederick Road  
Rocky Ridge, MD 21778



Announcing  
**CRITTERS III**

an Exhibition of Wilderness Drawings by Frank DuVal  
at the Urbana Regional Library,  
9020 Amelung Street, Frederick, Maryland,  
August 6 through October 30, 2014

*Frank DuVal has been on the rating panel for CFA to judge the applicants for the Artist in Residence program.*

*If you have a chance to attend his show, please introduce yourself and thank him for his service to CFA.*



Sketch for Osprey in Many Colors, colored inks on paper

This exhibition is brought to you through a partnership between The Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center and the Frederick County Public Libraries.

Library hours are

ten to eight, Monday through Thursday;

ten to five, Friday and Saturday;

one to five on Sundays.

Frank DuVal's website is [www.swingdrawings.com](http://www.swingdrawings.com).



Fowler's Toad at Catoctin State Park, colored inks on paper



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Catoctin Mountain Park

6602 Foxville Road  
Thurmont, MD 21788

(301) 663-9388 phone  
(301) 271-2764 fax

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## Catoctin Mountain Park News Release

October 15, 2014  
For Immediate Release  
Debra Mills

### **Catoctin Mountain Park Announces Fall Activities Schedule and Road Closures**

**Fall Color Walks – Saturdays, October 18 and 25, and Sundays, October 19 and 26 at 1:30p.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Hog Rock Parking Area**

How will this year's growing season affect the fall colors in Catoctin Mountain Park? Meet a ranger at the Hog Rock Parking Lot at 1:30 or 3:00 p.m. on any of the above dates for a short walk to learn why the leaves change in the fall and how weather affects fall color. Is there a scientific reason or does mysterious Jack Frost deserve the credit?

**Orienteering (Map and Compass Reading) - Saturdays, November 15 and 22, and Sundays, November 9 and 16, at the Visitor Center at 1:00 p.m.**

Orienteering classes consist of an indoor slide program that introduces maps and their components as well as the orienteering compass that allows the user to determine the direction of travel. After learning how to use the compass in conjunction with the map, participants are given the opportunity to complete a short outdoor course. The outdoor course requires going off-trail in varied terrain so wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Maps and compasses are provided for the day. The program is free but class size is limited so reservations are required. Please make your reservation by calling the Visitor Center at (301) 663-9388.

#### **Firewood Collection Permits**

Catoctin Mountain Park is piloting a Firewood Policy permitting removal of downed trees that have fallen to produce an unnatural concentration of hazardous fuels. The downed wood exceeds park needs and is being recycled through Firewood Collection Permits.

Permits costing \$50, will allow the permit holder to collect up to 3 cords of downed wood from November 25 through December 16, 2014. Specific permit terms are listed under "News" at [www.nps.gov/cato](http://www.nps.gov/cato). A total of 25 permits will be issued for the pilot period. Permit applications will be accepted beginning November 10 through U.S. Mail only and will be processed in the order received. Permit applications must contain a check payable to the National Park Service. Permits sent by email, hand-carried or delivered by any method other than U.S. Mail will be returned to the sender with no further processing.

#### **Camp Misty Mount – Cabin rentals available through October 31**

Cabins may be rented in historic Camp Misty Mount through the October 31. Rustic chestnut cabins constructed by the Works Progress Administration are available to individuals, families and groups. Please call the Misty Mount office at (301) 271-3140 to make your reservation or for further information.

#### **Owens Creek Campground – Open for family camping through November 1**

Owens Creek Campground is open for family camping through November 1, 2014. The campground will close for the season at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 2, 2012. Sites are available by reservation only. Reservations can be made by calling 877-444-6777 or at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

Each site is limited to one camping unit (tent or trailer) and a maximum of 5 people. Maximum tent size is 9'x12'. Trailers up to 22' in length are accepted but there are no hookups. The fee is \$25.00 per night.

### **Deer Spotlight Surveys**

National Park Service personnel will be conducting deer spotlight surveys from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. during the week of October 20, 2014. The purpose of the surveys is to obtain a current deer population density estimate for the park. All roads that are within or along the boundary of the Park will be included in the survey. These roads include Park Central, Manahan, Foxville Deerfield, and Quirauk School Roads as well as Route 77. Spotighting will only take place on park property and will be conducted from a marked NPS vehicle.

### **Road Closures**

#### **Manahan and Park Central Roads to Close for Deer Reduction Activities and the Winter Season**

Park Central and Manahan Roads, located in Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, Maryland, will close intermittently to vehicle traffic beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Monday November 3, through December 10, 2014 for deer reduction. During this time, CATO staff will conduct white-tailed deer herd reduction activities in accordance with the Catoctin White-tailed Deer Management Plan / Final Environmental Impact Statement. Please see the attached chart and map for exact times and locations.

#### **Manahan Road**

The gravel section of Manahan Road, north of the intersection with Park Central Road will close intermittently on weekdays November 3 -22, 2014 to insure visitor safety during white-tailed deer herd reduction. These activities, conducted in accordance with the Catoctin White-tailed Deer Management Plan / Final Environmental Impact Statement, will occur after sunset, when the Park is closed to visitors.

Manahan Road will close for the winter season beginning Tuesday, November 22, 2014. Traditional winter closures substantially reduce the need for gravel replacement on the historic roadway and preserve the adjacent native plant environment. At an average elevation of 1500 feet, the Manahan Road area usually receives more freezing precipitation than any other area of the park. Closing the road enhances visitor safety while allowing opportunities for cross-country skiing and sledding.

#### **Poplar Grove**

The Poplar Grove Tenting Area on Manahan Road remains open on weekends during the closure period, providing youth groups with the opportunity to test their fitness by backpacking supplies in and out of camp. Day hikers benefit as the absence of vehicle traffic increases the likelihood of observing wildlife. The Poplar Grove and the immediate area will be closed to all park visitors during deer management operations.

#### **Park Central Road**

Portions of Park Central Road will close for the Winter Season at noon, December 22, 2014. Closed sections are the 2½ mile section of road on the east side of the park beginning at the Visitor Center and ending at the 1800' elevation and from Manahan Road to Foxville-Deerfield Road. Closing roads when visitation is low and freezing precipitation often occurs increases visitor safety and reduces maintenance costs. Precipitation that falls as rain at the Visitor Center often changes to ice or snow in less than 1 mile driving distance.

The availability of the road for winter recreation is a positive result of this closure. Many casual hikers who would not otherwise use park trails find the road to be an ideal place to hike and enjoy nature. When there is sufficient snow, Park Central Road provides the beginner with an excellent location to learn cross-country skiing, providing a large area devoid of trees and other obstacles.

Park Central and Manahan Roads will reopen to vehicle traffic in March, 2014 as weather conditions permit.

## Deer Reduction Activities

Deer herd reduction is being carried out by qualified federal employees, since public hunting is not permitted in Catoctin Mountain Park. Meat from culled deer will be donated to the Maryland Food Bank, including pantries in Frederick and Washington Counties. The purpose of the herd reduction is to support forest regeneration and provide for the long-term protection, conservation and restoration of native species and cultural landscapes. The consumption of vegetation by the overpopulated deer herd has negatively impacted other wildlife species habitat, and park neighbors. The health of the deer population continues to decline. Reduction activities will occur after sunset, when the Park is closed to visitors. All closed areas will be clearly posted and closures will remain in effect for short periods of time. The closure areas are as follows:

<b>CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK AREA CLOSURES FOR DEER REDUCTION</b>				
	<b>Nov 3-6, 2014</b>	<b>Nov 17-20, 2014</b>	<b>Dec 1-4, 2014</b>	<b>Dec. 15-18, 2014</b>
	<b>Closed Daily Except 6:00 am to 10:00 am</b>	<b>Closed Daily Except 6:00 am to 10:00 am</b>	<b>Closed Daily Except 6:00 am to 10:00 am</b>	<b>Closed Daily Except 6:00 am to 10:00 am</b>
<b>Area A</b> The western portion of the Park, west of Foxville-Deerfield Road to the Park boundary including the Adirondack Shelter and Horse Trail and Owens Creek Campground.	X	X	X	X
<b>Area B</b> East of Foxville-Deerfield Road, including Poplar Grove, to the north boundary, excluding Camp Greentop and Chestnut Picnic Area. Park Central Road west of Manahan Road will remain open until 5:00 pm and reopen at 3:00 am each day until November 22, when it will close for the winter.	X	X	X	X
<b>Area C</b> Camp Misty Mount, the area east of the Hog Rock Nature Trail, west of Park Central Road and North of Falls Nature Trail, excluding Blue Blazes Whiskey Still Trail. Park Central Road will remain open until 5:00 and reopen at 3:00 am each day until December 22, when it will close for the winter	X	X	X	X
<b>Area D</b> Park Central Road north to the Park boundary between Hog Rock parking area and Thurmont Vista Trail.	X	X	X	X
<b>Area E</b> The northern portion of the Park just south of Buck Lantz Road	X	X	X	X
<b>Area F</b> The eastern portion of the Park including Wolf Rock and Chimney Rock				X

Catoctin Mountain Park is one of over 400 units administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The park Visitor Center, located on State Route 77 three miles west of Thurmont, Maryland, is open daily from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Visitor Center will be closed on Federal Holidays November through February. Correspondence should be addressed to: Superintendent, Catoctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, MD 21788. Our website address is [www.nps.gov/cato](http://www.nps.gov/cato). General information can be obtained by calling the Visitor Center at (301) 663-9388

-NPS-

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



# SPIRITS OF THE FURNACE

## A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST



“Spirits of the Furnace” is a guided night tour through the historic Catoctin Iron Furnace and Village, with stops in historic structures and along the landscape. Refreshments will be available at the ca. 1810 Collier’s Log House. Kids can also make a craft \$. Bring a flashlight and wear shoes appropriate for walking on uneven terrain.

**Saturday**

**October 25, 2014**

7pm – 9:30pm (Rain or Shine)

**Cunningham Falls State Park**

Catoctin Furnace - on Maryland 806 (Catoctin Furnace Road)

\$5.00/adult, \$3/child aged 7-12, aged 6 and under are free

*Ticket includes refreshments (one per visitor)*

*Tickets must be purchased in advance using Paypal @ [www.catoctinfurnace.org](http://www.catoctinfurnace.org) Questions – call 301.271.3676.*

**Cunningham Falls State Park**  
14039 Catoctin Hollow Road  
Thurmont, MD 21788  
301.271.3676



Martin O’Malley, Governor

Frank S. Gill, Secretary

*Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Seven days advance notice required.*

## **“Spirits of the Furnace” event in Catoctin Furnace, Maryland**

**Who:** Open to the Public/Tickets required

**When:** Saturday, October 25, 2014 7:00-9:30 p.m.

**Where:** Cunningham Falls State Park Manor Area/Catoctin Furnace Log Cabin along Route 806, Thurmont, MD 21788

**Cost:** Tickets must be ordered in advance.

\$5 per adult (ages 13+), and \$3 per child (ages 7 – 12). 6 years and under gain free admittance.

**Contact:** Tickets must be purchased in advance using Paypal @ [www.catoctinfurnace.org](http://www.catoctinfurnace.org)  
Questions – call 301.271.3676.

On Saturday, October 25, 2014, a local tradition will refuse to go quietly in the night at Cunningham Falls State Park and the Catoctin Furnace Historical District! The *Spirits* will return to tell their tales of days gone by!

The “Spirits of the Furnace” is an entertaining living history event that will take place from 7 pm to 9:30 pm. Visitors will be led by spirited guides on a night hike around the historic Catoctin Iron Furnace. Frequent stops will be made to hear local stories from costumed characters as they recall lore of the furnace and the Frederick area.

Hikes will take approximately one hour and will cover some uneven terrain in grassy or forested areas. Participants are encouraged to wear shoes appropriate for hiking, warm clothing and to bring a flashlight. This hike may not be appropriate for very young children and does not accommodate strollers or wheelchairs. Tickets must be ordered beforehand and cost \$5 per adult (ages 13+), and \$3 per child (ages 7 – 12). Children aged 6 years and under are given free entry. Tickets include the hike and refreshments (limit one per visitor).

This event was made possible through the cooperative efforts of the Harriet Chapel, the Silver Oak Academy, Catoctin Forest Historical Society and Cunningham Falls State Park.

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](http://www.DNR.Maryland.gov)



# Frederick native enjoys dream job managing two local state parks

Mark Spurrier, Park Manager for Cunningham Falls State Park and Gambrill State Park, was recently featured in the Frederick News Post. To read the article, go to

*Photo by Bill Green, FNP*

[http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/environment/natural\\_resource/frederick-native-enjoys-dream-job-managing-two-local-state-parks/article\\_b1c911f3-00e1-5d75-bb1f-2f868f1ee6c2.html](http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/environment/natural_resource/frederick-native-enjoys-dream-job-managing-two-local-state-parks/article_b1c911f3-00e1-5d75-bb1f-2f868f1ee6c2.html)

## 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 and 2015. 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	Students
Dec- Feb.	\$20	\$30	\$50	\$5/year
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](http://www.catoctinforall.org)

