



# The Catoclin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 3 No. 3 October 2013

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

## Catoclin Forest Alliance Collaboration Yields National Community Partnership Award by Michael West, Catoclin Forest Alliance President

Earlier this year, the Catoclin Forest Alliance, Department of Social Services (DSS), the Frederick County Circuit Court, Legal Aid Bureau, and Bar-T Mountainside Challenge and Retreat Center were nominated for a prestigious national Community Partnership Award given by the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). The award was given to acknowledge the outstanding work they did in partnership to advance the safety, permanence, and well-being of children. The group provided 13 Frederick County foster children with a unique life skills experience that included trust-building exercises, thrill seeking events such as the zip line and “leap of faith” in which a camper wearing a safety harness climbs a pole and leaps from a platform to try to grab a trapeze-style bar several feet away. In addition they did some traditional camping, had outdoor educational activities and planted trees at the Mountainside Retreat and Challenge Center near Urbana, Maryland.



**Left to right:** Keith Liederman, CWLA Board Member & Executive Director, Kingsley House; Martha Sprow, Assistant Director for Child, Family and Adult Services Frederick County Department of Social Services; Ms. Nina Shore Chief Attorney for Legal Aid Inc., Domestic Relations Master Richard Sandy, Frederick County Circuit Court, Michael West, Catoclin Forest Alliance, Inc. President; Joe Richardson, owner Bar-T Mountainside Challenge and Retreat Center; and Christine James-Brown, CWLA President & CEO.



*Main Exhibit on the stack on west side of library. Artist's work left to right: Steve Hurley, Robert Strasser, Olin Nave, Emily McGrew, Janet Nave, Olin Nave, and Carl Braun.*

## Artist in Residence (AIR) Artwork Exhibit

Catoctin Forest Alliance is proud to announce that eleven pieces of art from the Artist in Residence art collection are on display at the Thurmont Regional Library (76 East Moser Rd. Thurmont, MD 21788). The exhibit will stay at the library until October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The exhibit contains works done by the following artists:

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Olin Nave</b>           | "The Artist's Cabin at Misty Mount" Pencil                         |
| <b>Olin Nave</b>           | "Escape to the Woodlands" Acrylic                                  |
| <b>Janet Nave</b>          | "Deer in Woods" Acrylic  |
| <b>Anna Marie Pavlik</b>   | "Chronicle of Human Presence" Stratagraph                          |
| <b>Carl Braun</b>          | "Catoctin Adventures" Oil on canvas                                |
| <b>Ramsey Barnes</b>       | "Virginia Creeper" Photograph                                      |
| <b>Alex Arzt</b>           | "Camera Obscura" Photograph  |
| <b>Steve Hurley</b>        | "Second Growth" Acrylic and mixed media-tissue paper               |
| <b>Bridget Z. Sullivan</b> | "Caesar's Amaita" Archival Pigment Print, Pastel on Fine Art Paper |
| <b>Emily McGrew</b>        | "Forest Scene" Oil on Board  |
| <b>Robert Strasser</b>     | Natural Elements in Clay Ceramic                                   |

Please stop by and see the work of the very talented AIR artists. The AIR program is a Catoctin Forest Alliance program and is conducted at both Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park. Many of the artists are from the Maryland area but we have also had artists from Kentucky, Texas, Missouri and California.



*Exhibit behind the front desk. Artist's work left to right: Bridget Sullivan, Ramsey Barnes and Alex Arzt.*



*Exhibit by copy machine. Anna Marie Pavlik's "Chronicle of Human Presence"*





## A Very Special Invitation

Come join the Catoclin Forest Alliance (CFA) for  
our Fall Public Meeting

### Program:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Recent and current CFA activities
- Catoclin Mt. Park and Cunningham Falls  
State Park reports and projects
- Art Exhibit of Artist in Residence artwork
- Woodland Music: Steve Hess, guitar; Holly  
Rife, recorder and  
Norman Gibat, bass guitar
- Light refreshments

## The CFA Fall Public Meeting

Sunday, October 20  
2:00pm until 4:45pm

Thurmont Regional Library  
76 E. Moser Rd.  
Thurmont, MD 21788

*Library Disclaimer: The Thurmont Regional Library  
does not endorse or promote the views of the program  
sponsors or presenters who use their facility.*

**First Annual  
Catoctin Forest Alliance Banquet and Fundraiser**



**Saturday, October 26, 2013**

You are cordially invited to join us on Saturday, October 26, 2013 for the First Annual Catoctin Forest Alliance Banquet and Fundraiser at the Frederick Elks Lodge #684.

**Those not currently members are invited, too!**

Social Hour will begin at 5:00; Dinner will be served at 6:00pm.

Good Food - Good Fellowship!

**\*DOOR PRIZES\*   \*CASH BAR\*   \*BUCKET RAFFLE\***

Mail the below reservation form and check to:  
**Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA)**  
**C/O Rob Gilford**  
**7054 Slabtown Road**  
**Waynesboro, PA 17268**

TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR!

**For Further Information, Please Contact:**

**Rob Gilford**  
**Email: cfabanquet@yahoo.com**  
**Or**  
**Phone: 717-762-6546**

*Please reserve by October 16th!*

***"Catoctin Forest Alliance strives to inspire all generations to know, love and explore the forest we all have right here in our own backyard!"***

..... <cut here> .....

**Please Reserve #..... dinners @ \$25.00 each for the names listed below (Please Print names of attendees ):**

**1: ..... 2: ..... 3: .....**

**4: ..... 5: ..... 6: .....**

**Phone Number: ..... Email Address:.....**

**Amount Enclosed: \$..... (Check Made Payable To: Catoctin Forest Alliance)**  
Mail to: Rob Gilford, 7054 Slabtown Road, Waynesboro, PA 17268

**THANK YOU!**



**Catoctin Forest Alliance**  
**First Annual Banquet and Fundraiser**

**Frederick Elks Lodge #684**  
**Frederick, MD**

**Saturday, October 26, 2013**  
**Social Hour 5pm Dinner served at 6pm**

Dear Friends:

You are cordially invited to attend the Catoctin Forest Alliance First Annual Banquet and Fundraiser on October 26, 2013. It will be held at the Frederick Elks Lodge #684 at 289 Willowdale Drive in Frederick, MD. **Those not currently members are invited, too!** The Catoctin Forest Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The CFA mission is to preserve and promote the health of the Catoctin Mountain forest for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and we need your help to achieve this. The CFA benefits the Catoctin Forest, the regional environment and the people who live in our community by working to provide a strong voice for conservation in the community through education and natural resource management. We strive to connect children and their families with nature through educational and recreational programs that promote environmental awareness and inspire the next generation of land stewards. By promoting awareness, appreciation, and participation for the preservation of the Catoctin region through publicity, programs, and outreach we can build alliances and partnerships to coordinate the successful delivery of the best forest management practices to the public and private lands of the Catoctin Forest region. Please join us on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Send your reservations in as soon as possible but no later than October 16<sup>th</sup>.

We'd like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to all of you who have given so generously of your time, talents, financial help and material gifts to make this organization the great success it has become. Your support enables us to administer a number of programs that help us achieve our goals. Programs like the Artist in Residence Program, Trout in the Classroom, various tree plantings, and this year a new Conservation Grant Program and our own Environmental Education Scholarship Fund. We are asking for a donation from anyone who would care to do so. If you will be attending our dinner we welcome any items of interest to the like minded individuals who will be joining us for use in our Bucket Raffle or door prizes. The Bucket Raffle is our fund-raiser and the door prizes are a way to share the evening activities and to say thank you to everyone for supporting the banquet. If you cannot attend but would like to make a donation, please feel free to mail us a check and, if you wish, specify which program you would like your money to support. If not specified the Board of Directors will put the money where it is needed the most.

Please understand, there is absolutely no obligation to send or bring items for the raffle and door prizes. We will be delighted just to have you there. If you would like to donate raffle or door prize items, you may send them to Rob Gilford, 7054 Slabtown Road, Waynesboro, PA 17268 or bring them to the dinner on October 26<sup>th</sup>. You can also contact Rob at [cfabanquet@yahoo.com](mailto:cfabanquet@yahoo.com) in addition to my home phone at 717-762-6546 to make other arrangements.

In the unlikely event of unfavorable weather or the possibility of hazardous road conditions, the number to call to find out if the dinner is still on is 717-762-6546.

Sincerely,  
Rob Gilford, For the B.O.D. of the Catoctin Forest Alliance



## **An Evening in the Park** by Shelley Miller, FHS Science Club Advisor

Last spring, the Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) supported the efforts of Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS). The Frederick High School (FHS) Science Club students participated in an event called "An Evening in the Park". The event, planned by Heather Quill (Parkway Guidance Counselor), Betsy Little (Principal of Parkway Elementary School), and Frank Vetter (Principal of West Frederick Middle School) was held at Baker Park, in Frederick, to build community among FHS, WFMS, and their feeder schools. The FHS Science Club passed out tree seedlings/saplings supplied by CFA (special thanks to Elizabeth Prongas, Mike West, and John Smucker) and the Department of Natural Resources (special thanks to Mike Kay) to individuals and families in attendance. The weather was perfect and many trees found their way to new homes. The tree seedlings/saplings were received with much appreciation, gratitude, and enthusiasm. Their value is recognized on many levels especially as natural resources for wildlife and man. The event was a fun and educational evening.

The FHS Science Club would like to recognize the generosity of CFA and DNR in supporting this event and encouraging education and awareness of preserving the natural resources around us, right here in Frederick County. FCPS and especially the FHS Science Club would like to say "Thank you".



Saplings donated by CFA ready for distribution



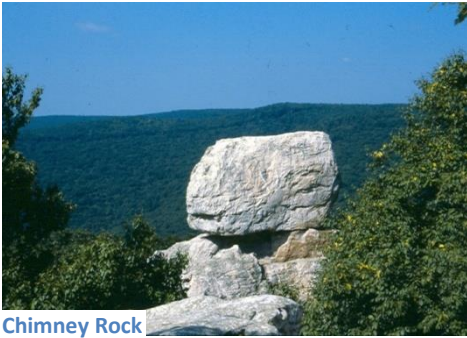
R. Ceballos, FHS Science Club President 2012-2013, and Ms. Kathy Campagnoli, FHS Principal, standing behind Science Club sign at "An Evening in the Park" 2013.



Shelley Miller, FHS Science Club Co-Advisor, standing behind Science Club sign



## The Other Side Of The Park By Susan Burke, Supervisory Park Ranger



Chimney Rock

Most visitors who enter the visitor center want to see the Falls. They also want a good vista, rocks to climb and creeks to splash around in. They do not want snakes, bears, bugs, or any creepy crawlies. But, there are a precious few who do want to see nature. There might be the prize sighting of a turkey or a deer, or most excitedly a bear with cub. Closely examine every leaf and twig to see what you might discover. You might find



morel mushrooms or millipedes mating. Who would have though a cicada was so beautiful? Just look at the florescent colors.



Another secret hidden on the other side of the park is the Browns Farm Trail. Before the park was here farmers eked out a living in these rocky hills. If you are observant you can see the cellar hole. Picture the house of chestnut that once stood on the stone foundation. The Browns raised four daughters in the eight room house. There was no electricity; they used oil lamps for light. They drew water from a nearby well for cooking and washing. Today asters grow at the well brightening the landscape in late fall.

Don't forget to stop at the sawmill. The streams on the west side of the park provided power for the lumber industry. The sawmill near the entrance to Owens Creek camp ground is a replica of the original mill that stood on this spot. The exact date of construction and first operation of this vertical sawmill is unknown, but it is shown on an 1857 map with the same area indicated as deeded back to 1808, mentioning rights to water ways. The same 1857 map also shows 4 additional sawmills on Owens Creek and one on Big Hunting Creek near the present day Visitor Center. The sawmill near the present day Owens Creek Campground probably



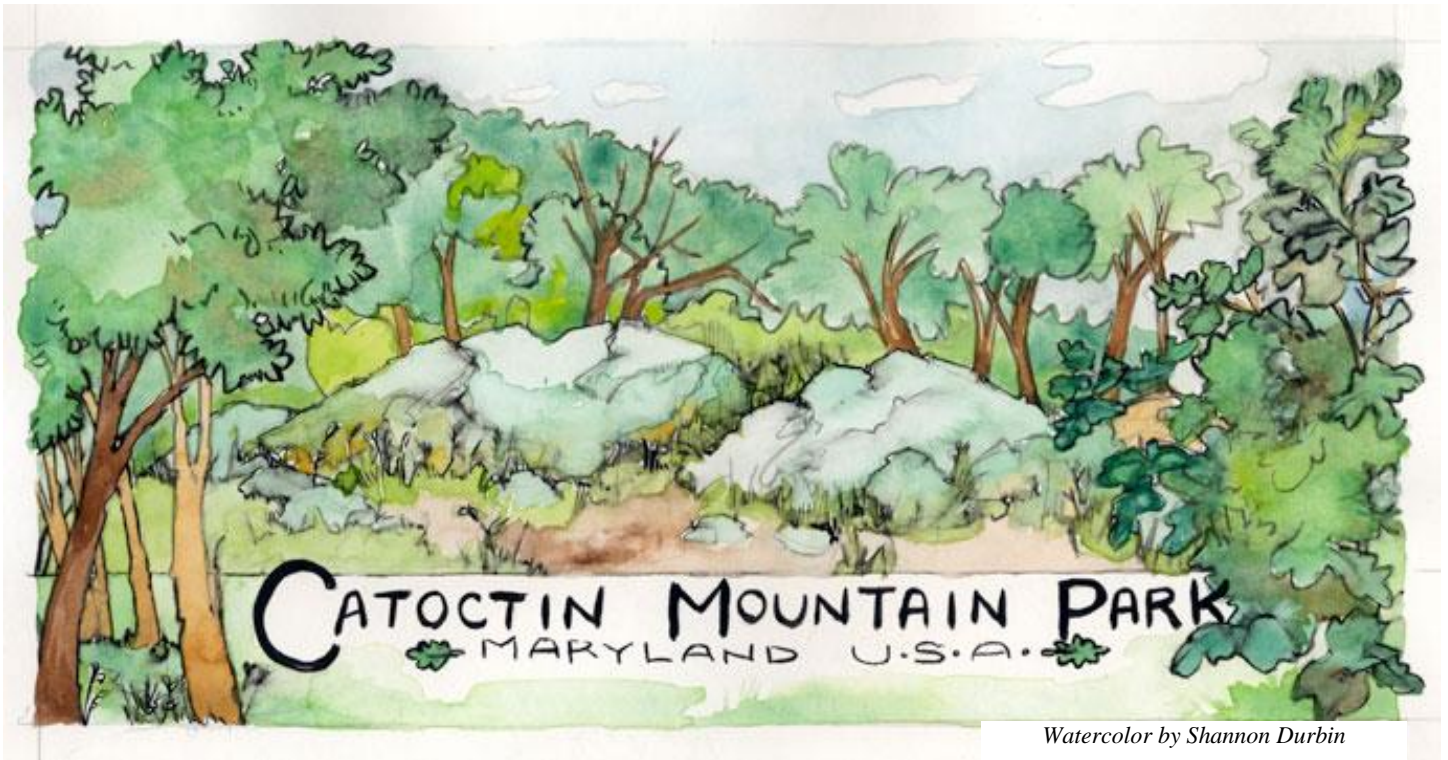
operated until after the late 1890's. This reconstruction of the mill was built by the Youth Conservation Corps.

While you are on the other side of the park, pull into the picnic area and enjoy lunch. The area is away from traffic, quiet and peaceful. But of course if you have a van full of active children they can run and play safely while you light up the grill and cook some burgers and hotdogs.



So, however you spend your day at Catoclin Mountain Park: Enjoy, Explore, Relax and Return for more of "Other Side Of The Park"!





Watercolor by Shannon Durbin

## Artist in Residence Experience by Shannon Durbin

As an Artist, you find yourself chasing inspiration throughout your career; looking to a variety of methods, materials, and experiences to approach your ideas from different angles. One of my longstanding aspirations was to be invited to be an Artist-In-Residence at one of our nation's National Parks. My dream came true this fall when my application was chosen for the Catoctin Mountain Park Artist-In-Residence program in Maryland.

Though I had grown up in the Pacific Northwest – and thought I knew a lot about the “wild outdoors” – Catoctin was truly the wildest place I had been to for any length of time. To be honest, at first, I was a little scared. Initially the forest appeared dim, even in daylight, and full of sounds and movements I could not identify. At night it seemed the sounds of the forest creatures doubled in intensity. Coming from my current home in Los Angeles, California, it took me several days to adjust my pace and my perception, so that I could really see the forest, and begin to lock in on the particular beauty of Catoctin Mountain Park.

I was without a car during my stay, so most days I got up, drank my coffee, packed a sandwich, and started walking Central Park Road toward a chosen trailhead. In addition to food and water, I packed my travel pallet of gouache paints (concentrated watercolor), brushes, and a book of watercolor paper. I meandered the trails until I came across a scene that particularly drew me in. I would then find a place to sit, pull out my art supplies, and begin to make a sketch *in situ*.



On the Way to Owens Creek Sept 18, 2013 by Shannon Durbin



These *in situ* studies helped “slow my eye”, allowed me to pause, breath, and begin to really see what was in front of me. Take in the colors, the shapes, and total composition.

The first couple of days were a challenge, but by the middle of my first week I began to pick out the colors and patterns, the cycles and the players within the forest. At the same time the forest became friendlier to me. My hikes, over my two-week stay, averaged between 3 and 4 hours, with one 7-hour hike that left me happily exhausted from my adventures.

Almost immediately I was drawn to the large fallen trees, with their exposed root systems. The massive size of these trees, the tangle of roots still twisted around large rocks, the deep crater left from where the tree had grown down into the earth, all of this implied how incredible the actual event would have been to witness. From these toppled trees a new microenvironment had sprung up. In the craters unique plants grew in abundance, and the trees themselves had become host to opportunistic mushrooms, beetles, and tiny (and easily frightened) Garter snakes.

My favorite day during my stay at Catoctin Mountain Park was when Laura Day’s art class came to visit us from Thurmont High School. We began our day with a quick presentation of my work and discussion of the artistic process, then we all hiked Hog Rock Nature Trail with our sketching materials and packed lunches. When we reached the overlook we sat on the boulders to sketch the plants, trees, and the beautifully framed view of Frederick County that spread out before us.

My time at Catoctin Mountain Park was very special to me personally and professionally. I am very grateful to the folks at the Catoctin Forest Alliance who reviewed my work and chose my application. Also to Alicia Lafever and Holly Rife of the National Parks Service, and for Jim Robbins for having been such terrific hosts and guides. I hope more artists will take the opportunity to look into the Artist-In-Residence Program at Catoctin Mountain Park, and add their visions to this wonderful program.



*Tree ink sketch by Shannon Durbin*



*Artist in Residence, Shannon Durbin,  
sketching at Hog Rock.  
Photo by Alicia Lafever.*



## **Seasons 101** by Jim Robbins, Catoctin Forest Alliance Vice President

We will be doing our second season on October 18<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to come and be part of this great program. The youth will again be taking pictures during the day and measuring their tree growth as well as themselves to see what changes have taken place.

This trip they will be hiking the same trails and, with some help, take note of the changes in the park and pictures along the way. We will be collecting leaves along Spicebush Trail and at Chestnut for leaf pressing. The younger age group will get a demonstration on Dutch oven cooking. The meal will consist of Witches' Brew and Dump Cobbler. The older age group will help prepare the meal on their trip to the park. The older group may also be going to the blacksmith shop, if time permits.

I look forward to reporting on the changes in the attitudes of the youth on this visit, their experiences at the measurement of their tree, lunch, leaf collecting, visit to the museum at the Visitor's Center and the hikes. If you are interested in helping out please contact Jim Robbins at [jimrobbins@comcast.net](mailto:jimrobbins@comcast.net). It is always a great day with we can spend some time in the mountains with youth that have such a zest for life and need to look beyond the trees to see the forest. I know, that it re-charges, me for another day.

## **Time Lapse Video of Catoctin Mountain Park**

Kent Walters, a summer intern at Catoctin Mountain Park working as the park Geologist produced a time lapse video during his internship. Click on the link below to enjoy this beautiful representation of the park.

<https://vimeo.com/72860357>

## **Reminder About New Schedule for CFA Meetings**

The CFA Board has decided to hold general membership meetings four times a year (**the first Monday of February, May, August and November**). Board of Director Meetings will continue each month except July. Newsletters will be sent out in January, April, July and October with news updates in between if needed. We will keep you informed about the CFA activities and hope to see you at our general meetings when your time allows.



# SPIRITS OF THE FURNACE

## A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST



“Spirits of the Furnace” is a guided night hike to the historic Catoclin Iron Furnace, with stops along the trail to hear historical accounts and spooky tales. A small campfire with refreshments will be available at the Visitors Center. Kids can also make a craft \$. Bring a flashlight and wear shoes appropriate for hiking.

**Saturday**

**October 19, 2013**

7pm - 9:30pm

**Cunningham Falls State Park**

Manor Area - off Rt. 15 South

\$5/adult, \$3/child aged 7-12, aged 6 and under are free

*Ticket includes refreshments (one per visitor)*

*Tickets must be purchased in advance 301.271.3676.*

**Cunningham Falls State Park**  
14039 Catoclin Hollow Road  
Thurmont, MD 21788  
301.271.7574



Martin O'Malley, Governor

Joseph P. Gill, Secretary

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



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

---

## Catoctin Mountain Park News Release

October 1, 2013

For Release: Noon: October 1, 2013

Debra Mills

### **Catoctin Mountain Park Closed for the Duration of the Federal Government Shutdown**

Catoctin Mountain Park bounded approximately by Route 550 on the north, Route 15 on the east, Quirauk School Road on the west, and MD 77 on the south will be closed to the public beginning Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at approximately 12:00 PM, continuing through the end of the Federal Government shutdown. State Route 77 and Foxville-Deerfield Road will remain open for through traffic only. A portion of Park Central Road will also remain open.

All park facilities including the park trail system, parking areas, campgrounds and cabin camps, picnic areas and administrative buildings will be unavailable for public use during the closure. Persons demonstrating or otherwise using closed park areas should remove themselves and any personal property from the area. People and groups occupying campgrounds and cabin camps when the shutdown takes effect will be given notice to vacate the site within 48 hours. Reservations that begin after the shutdown occurs and prior to the resumption of normal operations will be cancelled. Special Use Permits will **not** be issued nor honored during the closure.

As a direct result of the shutdown of the federal government, the closure of Catoctin Mountain Park directly impacts over 30 park employees who will be immediately furloughed. A small cadre of law enforcement and maintenance personnel will work through the shutdown to protect resources and maintain park facilities.

Catoctin Mountain Park provides recreational and educational facilities for 448,000 people per year. Each visitor contributes about \$32 a day to local economies through food, travel and related expenditures. In total, local businesses and merchants will lose about \$39,000 for each day Catoctin Mountain Park is closed.

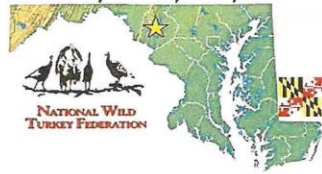
Catoctin Mountain Park is one of 401 units administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Correspondence should be addressed to: Superintendent, Catoctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, MD 21788. Our website address is [www.nps.gov/cato](http://www.nps.gov/cato). Emergency calls should be directed to the National Capital Region Communications Center at 1-866-677-6677.

-NPS-





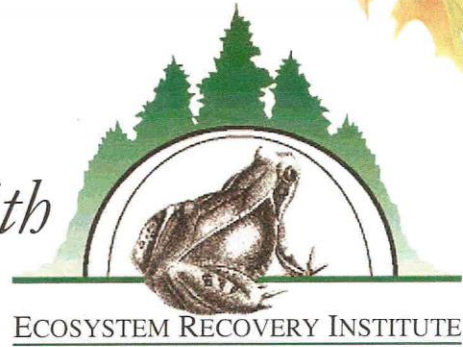
Monacacy Valley Chapter



**NWTF**  
Save the Habitat/Save The Hunt

# Buffer Planting Project

*in cooperation with*



## Come Plant With Us This Fall

Three planting sites: Thurmont, MD  
Grantsville, MD (Deep Creek area) Sparks, MD

Contact; Russ Leith/NWTF  
rleith6@comcast.net  
or  
Jay Zimmerman/NWTF  
jayczim@comcast.net



## 2014 Membership Drive

Our membership drive for 2014 has begun. All dues are renewed in December. See sliding scale for dues below, based on the month that you join. **For all new members:** If you join now, you can have three months free membership (October, November and December 2013) in addition to your 2014 membership for the cost of a one year membership.

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 \_\_\_\_

Fundraising \_\_\_\_

Information Technology \_\_\_\_

Membership \_\_\_\_

Artist in Residence \_\_\_\_

Finance \_\_\_\_

Conservation/Education \_\_\_\_

Marketing/Publicity \_\_\_\_

## CFA Website

Visit our website at [www.catoctinforall.org](http://www.catoctinforall.org)

