



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 4 No. 3 July 2014

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

CFA President Earns National Park Service Awards

Catoctin Mountain Park Volunteer Jim Robbins Receives National Award for Volunteerism by Debbie Mills, NPS Catoctin Mountain Park Ranger

H. H. "Jim" Robbins from Catoctin Mountain Park was honored with the George and Helen Hartzog Individual Volunteer Award for the National Park Service. Jim has been a driving force in reaching new audiences and forming partnerships that have expanded the park's youth service and educational programs. Last year, Jim personally contributed more than 500 volunteer hours to Catoctin. He was also directly responsible for an additional 2,000 hours donated by church, school, and civic groups he recruited to help in the park.

The Hartzog Awards were presented at a ceremony in Washington, DC, hosted by the National Park Foundation on Wednesday, June 25 at the Mayflower Hotel. During their 3 day stay in the Nation's Capital, Jim and his wife, Pam, were treated to a tour of the White House and National Park Service sites including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, and the National Mall. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins and Park Superintendent Mel Poole also met with Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Representative for Maryland's Eighth District on Thursday, June 26 and visited the U.S. Capitol.

"Jim Robbins is an extremely dedicated volunteer who works tirelessly to get children, particularly those at risk, active in the outdoors," said Catoctin Mountain Park Superintendent Mel Poole. "It is completely fitting that Jim's passion to serve others was recognized with the highest NPS volunteer award. The park staff, the Catoctin Forest Alliance, and the multitudes of young people, whose lives have been made better through his programs, send their thanks and congratulations."

The Hartzog Awards are named for former National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr. who started the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Program in 1970 with 300 participants. Last year, more than 246,000 volunteers donated 6.7 million hours of time and talent to help preserve and protect national parks. Photos and additional information about the Hartzog Awards are available at: <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/hartzog-awards.htm>.



Jim Robbins with Congressman Van Hollen.



Jim and wife Pam

Photos taken at the National Awards ceremony in DC on June 25, 2014

As you will see in the article that follows, Jim and Boy Scout Troop 270 from Thurmont also won NPS Regional Awards. Congratulations and thanks for your outstanding community service.





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

June 23, 2014

For Immediate Release

Debra Mills

Catoctin Mountain Park Volunteers Win National Park Service Regional Awards

The National Park Service, National Capital Region, has announced that Catoctin Mountain Park Volunteer, H. H. "Jim" Robbins and Troop 270 Boy Scouts of America, have won 2012 - 2013 George B. Hartzog Awards for the National Capital Region. The regional awards ceremony was held Glen Echo Park in Glen Echo, Maryland on June 4.

BSA Troop 270

BSA Troop 270 received the Regional Outstanding Volunteer Youth Group Award. As one of the largest and most active Scout Troops in Frederick County, Troop 270 epitomizes the mandates of the Boy Scout Law. Three generations of Scouts, parents and grandparents of Troop 270 worked side by side at a variety of projects including: annual preparation of the Poplar Grove Youth Tenting Area; trail maintenance and repair, invasive plant removal and building demolition. The Troop is ready and willing to answer all park requests for help regardless of the weather, physical requirements or timing.

H.H. "Jim" Robbins

Jim Robbins was named the Outstanding Individual Regional Volunteer for the time period May 2012 through September 2013. Jim is the quintessential volunteer, dedicating most of his waking hours to environmental stewardship. Jim works with multiple Frederick County youth organizations to find fun and innovative ways to get at risk young people outdoors, and to teach them about nature and the importance of public service. Jim has recruited local service clubs to become Catoctin Mountain Park partners. Jim guides the park's primary Friends Group, the Catoctin Forest Alliance and was recently elected President of that group. He has been an integral part of the expanding youth and educational program at Catoctin Mountain Park and to the programs that are bringing new and diverse audiences to Catoctin Mountain Park.

About the Award

George B. Hartzog led the National Park Service from 1964 to 1972. As Director, he recognized the need to make it easier for citizens to donate their time and talents to the NPS and pushed through legislation creating the Volunteers- In-Parks Program. The National Park Service created the Hartzog Awards to honor volunteers' hard work, and draw attention to their vast skills and contributions. These awards distinguish individuals or groups who give of their skills, talents, and time beyond the normal call of duty.

BSA Troop 270 and Jim Robbins are competing for the National Hartzog Awards in their category. The national winners will be announced in Washington, DC, on June 25, 2014.

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., and until 7:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Correspondence should be addressed to: Superintendent, Catoctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, MD 21788. Our website address is www.nps.gov/cato. General information can be obtained by calling the Visitor Center at (301) 663-9388.

DNR Celebrates “Walk Off the War” Veterans as they Hike through Washington Monument State Park

by *dnruser*



Lt. Col. Chris Bushman, MD Veteran Affairs Secretary Ed Chow, and Christina Holden with Warrior Hikers.

The Department of Natural Resources’ Maryland Park Service hosted veterans participating in the *Warrior Hike Walk Off The War* program as they journeyed through Maryland’s portion of the legendary Appalachian Trail on June 12 at [Washington Monument State Park](#). Park staff greeted the hikers with a much-appreciated

potluck dinner organized by Christina Holden, Veteran Outreach Manager for the Maryland Park Service. Maryland Veterans Affairs Secretary Edward Chow, park staff and volunteers, and representatives from the Warrior Hike also joined in the celebration.

“On behalf of the entire Department and the State of Maryland, we salute the selfless men and women who protect and serve our country,” said DNR Secretary Joe Gill. “We are humbled by the opportunity to provide these hikers a warm welcome and much-needed respite as they journey through Maryland along the Appalachian Trail.”

The *Walk Off the War Program* pays homage to Earl Shaffer. In 1948, Shaffer told a friend he was going to “walk off the war” to work out the sights, sounds and losses of World War II. Four months later, Shaffer became the first person to hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine.

Recognizing the physical, mental, and spiritual benefits of long-distance hiking, *Warrior Hike* partnered with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to create *Walk Off The War*. This outdoor therapy program supports combat veterans transitioning from their military service by hiking all 2,185 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

The program provides participating combat veterans with the equipment and supplies required to complete a six-month thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail; coordinates trail/town support in the forms of transportation, food, and lodging with veteran organizations and community groups located along the trail; and assists veterans with future employment opportunities through the program’s numerous partners and sponsors.

“Hiking over 2,000 miles during the course of six months really gives a veteran an opportunity to decompress and come to terms with their wartime experiences,” said Warrior Hike Executive Director Sean Gobin, a former Marine Corps Captain. “Additionally, the camaraderie that is shared between our combat veterans and the trail/town communities help facilitate their integration back into society.”

For more information about the Maryland Park Service’s Wounded Warrior and Veteran Outreach program, visit dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/armed_forces.aspx

Seasons 101 and SUCCESS by Jim Robbins

My! Where does the time go? It seems that it was just the end of the school year and now it is time to think of the Season 101 Program and the SUCCESS Program for this next year. There is a meeting about the Season 101 Program on July 15th at noon at the Visitors Center in the Catoctin Mountain Park. I will keep everyone informed on the new “revised” program for this year and what help we will need.

For the youth at SUCCESS we are doing two projects this year. Some of the youth will be working in the Cunningham Falls State Park on developing a trail for people with disabilities that will be an interpretative trail. This is a great tie-in, youth with disabilities working on a trail for people with disabilities. This trail will be in the Manor Area. The trail will go from the playground area to the Manor Visitor Center and then to the Pavilion and parking area by the Pavilion. This will be a great opportunity for all and a win – win for everyone.

The other program is more involved and is a Trail Maintenance Crew Program. This is a program to teach the youth how to do trail maintenance. The program will be every school day from 9:00-11:00am and the classes will be held at Round Meadow in the Conference Room. The classes will consist of 1 hour of classroom knowledge and 1 hour of working on what they learn. The classes will consist of, but not limited to; personal safety on the trail, hazards of the trail (animals and plants), personal protective equipment, water safety and purification, first aid and CPR, cutting tools, digging tools, wood tools, hoisting tools, measuring tools, power tools, other tools, trail construction, trail structures and reconstruction, erosion control structure, stabilizers, hardeners, definers, switchbacks and climbing turns, when to relocate or repair a damaged trail, cleaning drainage's, clearing blow-downs, brushing, bridges, construction and installation of trail markers, building materials, etc. It is a full program and one that will involve many partners. We will need instructors who are willing to give of their time to help with the program and we do have some from the State and Federal Parks, PATC, others but can still use more. If you have a desire to help the youth of tomorrow and can fit it into your schedule please contact me at (jimrobbins@comcast.net) or (301-693-9703).

The Trail Maintenance Crew will also be helping with the disabilities trail in the State Park as they acquire the skills to develop the trail.

CFA Calendar

July

- 23 CFA Board Meeting at Prongas Studio 5:30pm
- 27 Last day of CFA Art Show at Prongas Studio
- 27 Raffle drawing for 4 prizes

August

- 13 CFA General Meeting at Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor's Center 6pm
- 27 CFA Board Meeting

September

- 24 CFA Board Meeting

October

- 29 CFA Board Meeting

November

- 3 CFA General Meeting at Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor's Center 6pm



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Catoctin Mountain Park Ranger Lindsey Donaldson Wins Regional Director's Award for Natural Resource Management

Catoctin Mountain Park Biologist Lindsey Donaldson has received the National Capital Region's Director's Award for Natural Resource Management. The Director's Award is presented to an individual who goes above and beyond in performance of their duty as a Natural Resource Manager. Honorees are nominated by their peers in the National Park Service.

Ms. Donaldson has made significant contributions to natural resource management at Catoctin Mountain Park. She has worked on protecting brook trout populations from threats imposed by climate change, land use and invasives in addition to her work leading the park's white-tail deer management program. In 2013, she helped establish a partnership with neighboring Cunningham Falls State Park and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to address riparian degradation caused by vegetation loss and to improve brook trout habitat. Lindsey led a team of volunteers to plant and protect hemlock trees from the non-native pest, hemlock wooly adelgids, in the headwaters of Big Hunting Creek. She has led efforts to obtain critical baseline temperature and water quality data in park streams since 2011.

Lindsey Donaldson is an emerging leader in the community of natural resource managers in the National Capital Region, National Park Service. Lindsey served as Secretary of the NCR Natural Resource Advisory Team (NCR NAT) from 2010-2011. She effectively managed communications and supported the NAT Chair during his interactions with the Office of the Regional Director and other regional advisory teams.

Lindsey began working for the NPS as part of the Youth Conservation Corps at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, MD in 1998 while still a high school student. She worked at Antietam as a seasonal employee while attending college, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Shepherd University and a Master's degree in Forest Resource Management and Watershed Stewardship from Penn State University. She began her tour of duty at Catoctin Mountain Park in November, 2009.

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

2014 Day of Service in Catoctin Mountain Park

By Jim Sundergill, Day of Service coordinator

The Catoctin Forest Alliance held its second Day of Service at Catoctin Mountain Park on May 10, 2014. The event ran from 9:00 am till about 1 o'clock in the afternoon. This year there were two Eagle projects, a group from SUCCESS, several unaffiliated volunteers, Ranger Debbie Mills and her family, plus four CFA members. All told, there were 39 youth and 19 adults participating in this year's event. As we did last year, CFA provided pizza and drinks for all participants with some left over for the Rangers to enjoy.

Projects this year consisted of pressure washing (done by CFA member Mike West) and painting of cabin 78 at Camp Greentop; trail work at Owens Creek, raking leaves under all cabins at Greentop and painting the interior of the camp Greentop dining hall. This activity was organized as part of CFA's support of Catoctin Mountain Park and it was disappointing in that only four CFA members showed up to support the event. Hopefully with plenty of advance notice and an earlier posting of projects to be worked, attendance will improve next year.

Tentatively, next year's Day of Service will be on May 9. So PLEASE pencil this date in on next year's calendar (mine have already started arriving) so you will be available to help.



The chinking between the logs received blue painter's tape and then the logs were stained.

Painting the dining hall.



Mulching and raking

CFA Art Show Continues Until July 30th



On Saturday June 22nd about 100 people attended the Art Exhibit and Sale at the studio of Elizabeth Prongas, CFA member and professional artist. The event featured 16 local artists and the works displayed were inspired by nature. The show will be open by appointment through July 30th by calling Elizabeth at 301-271-4459. A portion of all sales will benefit the CFA.

In addition to the art exhibit, raffle tickets are still available for four very nice prizes. **The tickets cost \$2 each or 3 for \$5.** You can purchase tickets by contacting Elizabeth Prongas at 301-271-4459.

The drawing will take place on July 30th and the winners will be notified by phone.

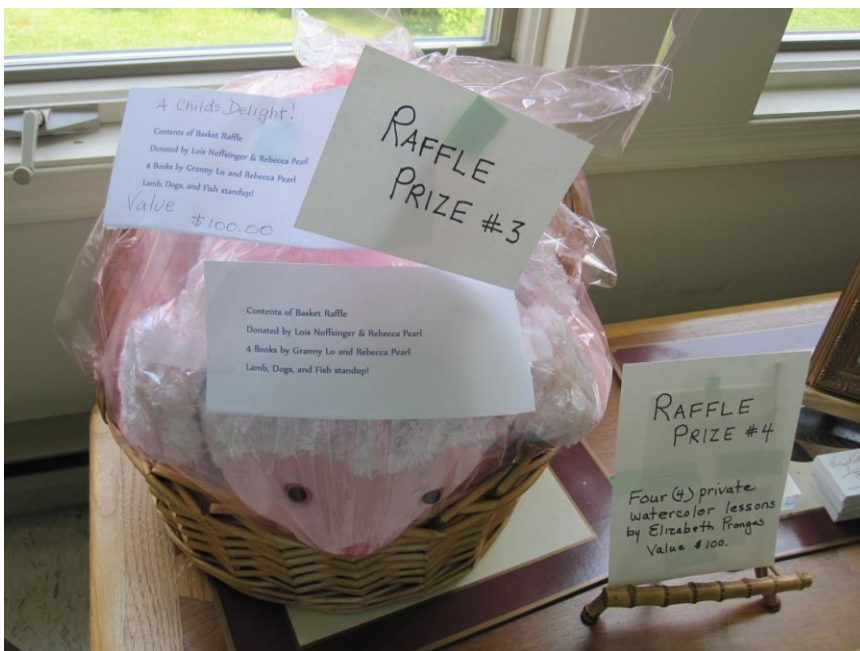
Here are the raffle prizes:



Prize #1
Watercolor print
By Rebecca Pearl



Prize #2 Watercolor print by Pat Anderson



Prize #3
A Child's Delight (3 stuffed animals plus 4 children's books authored by Lois Noffsinger, illustrated by Rebecca Pearl,)

Prize #4
Four (4) private art watercolor lessons by Elizabeth Prongas

Photos from the Art Show





Artist in Residence Exhibit at Thurmont Library

The Artist in Residence (AIR) program is in its 4th year. The program attracts artists from all over the US to spend 1-2 weeks in Catoctin Mountain Park or Cunningham Falls State Park while producing art that is inspired by the setting. Each artist donates a piece of art at the end of their residency. CFA now has an art collection that has been exhibited at the Delaplaine Center for the Arts, Mount St. Mary's University, Thurmont Regional Library and Auburn Manor. Sometime soon the collection will be on display at the Cunningham Falls State Park Visitor's Center. At present five pieces of the collection are on display at the Thurmont Regional Library and can be viewed there until the end of July. For more information about the AIR program, go to at

<http://home.nps.gov/resources/2016.htm?id=B33F20AC-1DD8-B71C-07A18C32AC4CEA3F>



Maggie Pratt

Maggie Pratt was a Catoctin Mountain Park Artist-in-Residence October 15-28, 2012. She is from Frostburg, MD and has a M.Ed. in Art Education from Frostburg State University.

Art Piece: "A Certain Frenzy of Air" Oil painting

Edmond Praybe

Ed Praybe was a Catoctin Mountain Park Artist-in-Residence May 1-15, 2013. He is from Arnold, MD and he received his MFA in Painting from the New York Studio School and a BFA in Painting from the Maryland Institute College of Art

Art piece: "Woods of Catoctin" Oil painting



Nancy Haver

Nancy Haver was the Catoctin Mountain Artist-in-Residence May 1-14, 2014. She is from Amherst, MA. She received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Massachusetts and a M.A.T. (Art) with Massachusetts certification for grades K-9 and a Master of Fine Arts (Printmaking).

Art pieces: "Woodland Flowers" Pastel on paper
"Chimney Rock" Woodcut print
"Timber Rattler" Woodcut print



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  Find us on Facebook

