



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 5 No. 1 January 2015

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

## 2015 CFA Membership Drive

It's that time of the year again—time to pay membership dues and help to support the CFA programs. The dues will remain **\$20 per person or \$30 per couple** for this year. In 2016 there will be a change in the membership levels and rates. We have been working with Sioban Riordan from the National Parks Foundation as part of the grant we received for capacity building. One of the things that Ms. Riordan is encouraging us to do is to update our fee schedule to reflect what similar organizations are doing.

We thank you in advance for your support. Checks can be made out to:

**Catoctin Forest Alliance** and mailed to:

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

Your financial support of CFA is greatly appreciated, but if you can also offer your time and talents to further the cause, it would be a big help. If you would like to be active in CFA, please let us know what interests you.

Education/Conservation \_\_\_      Membership \_\_\_      Marketing and Publicity \_\_\_  
Fundraising \_\_\_      Finance \_\_\_      Information Technology \_\_\_  
Artist in Residence \_\_\_

We are in great need of help with Marketing and Publicity, Fundraising, Finance and some extra help with IT. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact [jimrobbins@comcast.net](mailto:jimrobbins@comcast.net) or [lindasundergill@comcast.net](mailto:lindasundergill@comcast.net)

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



## Trout in the Classroom

Chuck Dinkel, Maryland Trout in the Classroom coordinator, expresses his thanks and appreciation to CFA members who delivered eggs to three Thurmont schools and one Emmitsburg school on Monday Jan 12, 2015. Despite icy roads, inclement weather, school closings and the need to reschedule the delivery date at the last moment all the volunteers did a superb job. Three days later I began receiving emails from the schools that the eggs were hatching.



Volunteer places trout eggs in a cooled tank.

Eggs in the hatching tank.

Once the trout are hatched and have grown to sufficient size, they will be released by the school children into local streams.



## **Season 101** By Jim Robbins, CFA President

This program has been re-vamped and we are working on it with the YMCA. I would like to thank Barb Ruppert for all her work and continued help with this program. By the time that we have all the “red tape” done we will have our first new version of Season 101 going on March, 2015. Our plans are to have 6 programs during the year and having a bus leave from the YMCA in Frederick and Hagerstown on a Saturday from 10-2pm and the investment for this program is \$204.00 for each Saturday per location. An example of the program: 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 needed and wanted. Contact [jimrobbins@comcast.net](mailto:jimrobbins@comcast.net) for questions or more information.

## **SUCCESS** By Jim Robbins, CFA President

With the start of a new year the youth of SUCCESS are busy making picnic tables and planters for the new trail for people with disabilities in the Manor area of Cunningham Falls State Park. The youth meet at Cunningham Falls State Park on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the months of January and February. They are also working on sanding and painting items for the March sugar maple festival in Cunningham Falls State Park. The youth meet on Mondays and Tuesdays in Catoclin Mountain Park and during the month of January we will be doing orientation and map reading, February is Dutch oven cooking and in March we will review the tools that we studied last year and start to do trail maintenance work in the Federal and State Parks.



**Students learn to use wood cutting tools and do trail maintenance.**



**Learning CPR**

## **SUCCESS** continued



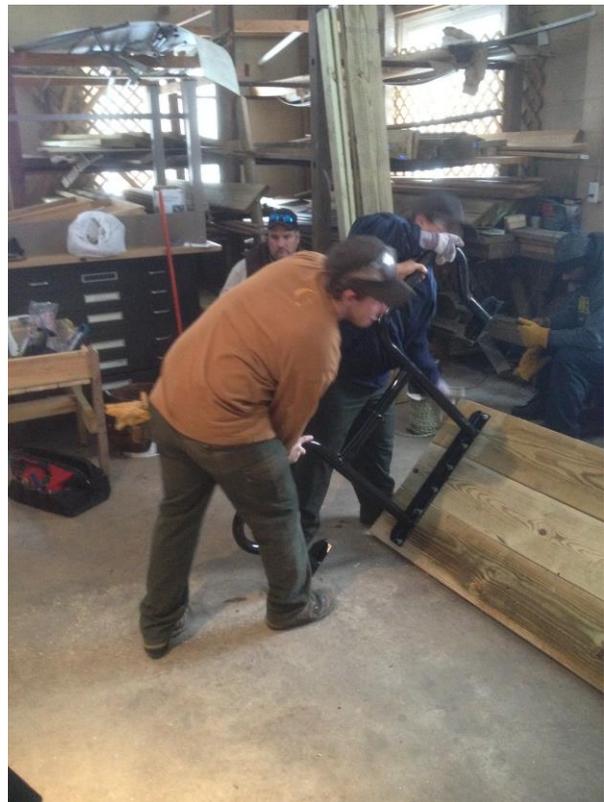
**Building trails**



**Hauling logs**



**Keeping the axes sharp**



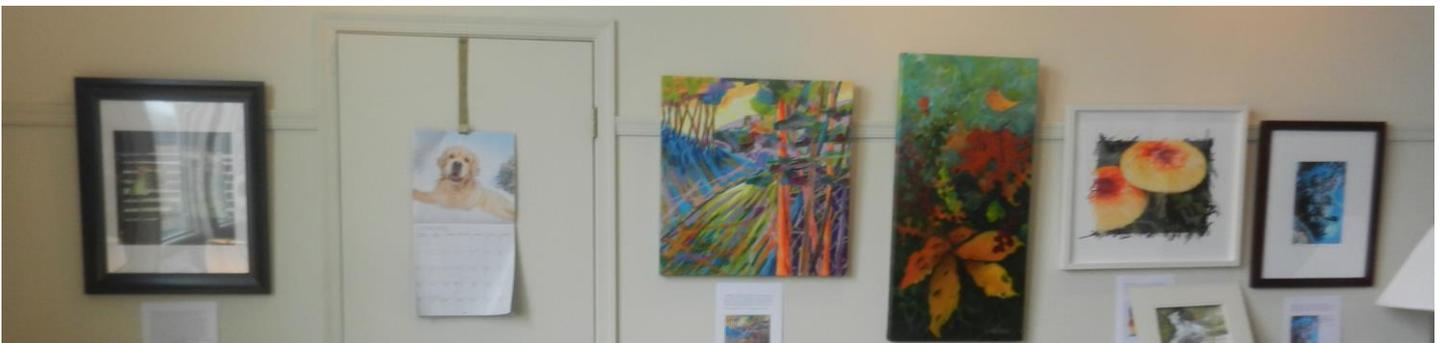
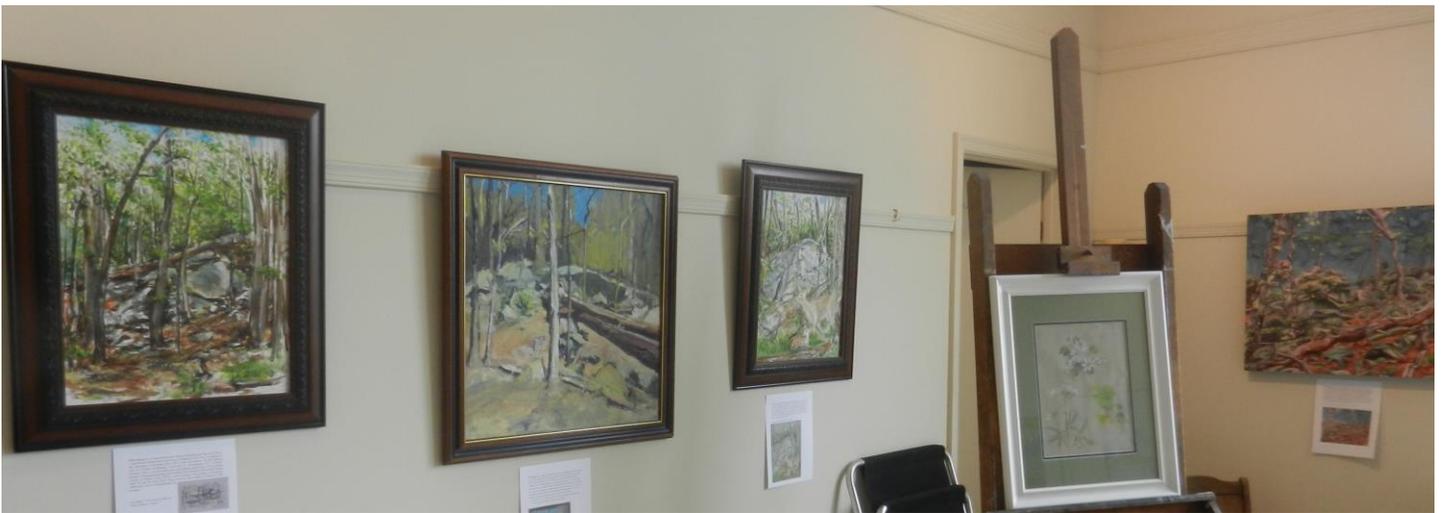
**Building picnic tables**

## The Catoctin Mountain Artist-in-Residence Program

The very first suggestion of a "nation's park" came from artist George Catlin in 1832. Artists have always played a vital role in preserving our nation's treasures. Catoctin Mountain Park, Cunningham Falls State Park and the Catoctin Forest Alliance, Inc. (CFA) support this tradition today through the Artist-In-Residence program.

Artists help our parks with their root mission: conservation and enjoyment. Historic records and technical drawings may help preserve the nuts and bolts of our state and national parks, but the hand of an artist will preserve the park's soul. The artist's work draws the public closer to the park's resources, so they can enjoy it on a deeper level and help to preserve it.

The Catoctin Mountain Artist-In-Residence (AIR) program, under the auspices of the Catoctin Forest Alliance, Inc., offers visual, literary, and performing artists an opportunity to work in a natural and historic setting to advance art, nature, and history education and appreciation. The CFA AIR program began in May of 2010 with local artist Carl Braun. Since then 19 artists have participated in the program, coming from as far away as California, Kentucky, Tennessee and Massachusetts. Each artist donates a piece of art to CFA after the residency. The collection of art is quite impressive and is on display in the Art Studio in Rocky Ridge at present. Previously the art has been displayed at the Delaplaine Center for the Arts and the Thurmont Regional Library. Soon a large part of the collection will be moved to the Cunningham Falls State Park Visitor's Center for display. Pieces of the donated art that have been in the collection for at least two years are for sale. If you are interested in viewing the collection, please contact Elizabeth Prongas at 301-271-4459. Below are some photos of the AIR exhibit at the Art Studio in Rocky Ridge.



## Mills Kids Predict a Busy Spring at Catoctin Mountain Park By Debbie Mills

As the snow falls and cold winter winds force us to hunker by the woodstove, all eyes are on Punxatuney Phil, the groundhog who may predict an early Spring next Monday, February 2. I'm not one to put much faith in rodent predictions, so I've turned to the Mills kids to predict the course of Spring events.

The kids were excited to learn that the Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program of Nappanee is returning for the third consecutive year. The Amish will arrive on March 2 and work in the park replacing floors in Greentop cabins, ramps attached to buildings in Camp Round Meadow and completing a variety of essential maintenance repairs through March 27.

Volunteers and Catoctin Mountain Park Staff will greet the young men and their adult leaders at a Welcome Dinner to be held at Camp Round Meadow at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 3. The kids got straight to work planning the menu.

Since they really like getting outside, the kids were also excited to hear about the workday planned to prepare Camp Misty Mount for opening on April 19. They will be joining Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and other volunteers raking leaves, sweeping cabins and moving firewood.

They were most excited to hear about the Catoctin Forest Alliance Day of Service on May 9 at Camp Greentop. Staining cabins and digging barberry is always rewarding, but, the mention of pizza perked their ears.

Now, those of you who know me well may think I have lost my mind and was talking to those adorable little goat babies bouncing in my barn. However, I was talking to my hardworking grandkids – the ones that make preparing and serving the Volunteer Banquet so easy for me each year. Meeting and working with the dedicated volunteers who provide the margin of excellence for Catoctin Mountain Park has allowed these kids to experience the special joy that comes from helping others. So, they are excited about the projects and hope you will join them at one or all of these events scheduled for the next few months. Please check your mail box often to learn more about these events and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Outdoor School Reunion to be held at Camp Greentop on April 4.

By the way, those bouncy babies and their mothers are more than willing to help removing Japanese Barberry and other exotics. We'd be happy to put them to work if we could temper their enthusiasm and keep them from clearing the entire forest.

For information about joining the Barberry Brigade, contact [Debbie\\_mills@nps.gov](mailto:Debbie_mills@nps.gov).





**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Catoctin Mountain Park

6602 Foxville Road  
Thurmont, MD 21788

(301) 663-9388 phone  
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## Catoctin Mountain Park News Release

January 27, 2015

For Immediate Release

Debra Mills, 301-663-9388

### Catoctin Mountain Park Ranger Don Stanley Wins Regional Harry Yount Award

Donald Stanley, Park Ranger at Catoctin Mountain Park, has been selected to receive the National Capital Region's Harry Yount Award. Named after Harry Yount, the first National Park Ranger, the award recognizes individual excellence in the art and science of rangers. The Harry Yount Park Ranger Award is the benchmark of recognition for a National Park Service Ranger. "The entire Catoctin Mountain Park staff is proud of Ranger Stanley's accomplishments. He is very deserving of this honor and continues to service as an example of quality public service to the American public," said Superintendent Mel Poole.

Ranger Stanley is the seventh Catoctin Mountain Park Ranger to win the Regional Harry Yount Award. He began his career with the National Park Service in 1983 at Big Bend National Park where he worked for three years as a wildland fire fighter. Ranger Stanley returned to the National Park Service at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1988, then transferred to the C&O Canal where he conducted living history accounts of the C&O Canal era as an interpreter and cared for the park's mules.

In 1991, Ranger Stanley moved to Catoctin Mountain to manage the Park's Volunteer Horse Mounted Patrol Program and the recreational riding program for children with special needs. He attended training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in 1992 and added protection of park visitors and resources to his responsibilities.

Ranger Stanley, a Lincoln, Nebraska native, lives in Thurmont, Maryland. He is the Fire Management Officer for Catoctin Mountain Park. An Eagle Scout himself, Ranger Stanley works with Boy Scout groups and manages the Annual Order of the Arrow Ordeal work event held annually at Catoctin Mountain Park. He enjoys hunting, fishing and gardening in his spare time.

Catoctin Mountain Park is one of over 400 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. Please visit the Catoctin Mountain Park website at [www.nps.gov/cato](http://www.nps.gov/cato) for more information. General information can be obtained by calling the Visitor Center at (301)663-9388. The Park Visitor Center is open from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. daily with the exception of Wednesdays and Federal Holidays when the Center is closed. Emergency calls should be directed to the National Capital Region Communications Center at 1-866-677-6677.

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

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

## **45<sup>th</sup> Annual Maple Syrup-making Demonstration**

**March 14 & 15 and March 21 & 22, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 2pm**

Learn about the process of making sap into syrup! The Maple Syrup event will be held in the William Houck (Lake) Area and feature continuous working demonstrations of the traditional maple syrup-making process. Enjoy activities, kid's crafts, and live music in a large heated tent. A \$2 minimum per person donation is requested. Youth groups are asked to contribute \$1 per person. For an additional charge (cash only) a delicious hot pancake and sausage breakfast will be served from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (or until sold out). Maryland-made maple syrup and maple candy will be available for sale. Proceeds benefit the 'Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks.' Park gates open at 9:00 a.m. and close at sunset. A sign language interpreter will be stationed at the maple syrup demonstration site on both Sundays. Pets are not permitted inside buildings or tents.

Cunningham Falls is currently seeking volunteers to assist with this event! Help out in the dining room, make maple syrup or help with kid's activities! For more information, please contact the park at 301-271-7574 or email Mark Spurrier [mark.spurrier@maryland.gov](mailto:mark.spurrier@maryland.gov).

The William Houck Area of Cunningham Falls is located three miles west of Thurmont, MD on Route 77. Thurmont is located 15 miles north of Frederick, MD.

**URL:** <http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/western/cunningham.asp>

**Name:** Cunningham Falls State Park

**Phone:** 301-271-7574

**Email:** [park-cunningham-falls@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:park-cunningham-falls@dnr.state.md.us)



## **The Beauty of the Catoctins**

Photo of a “garden pump after recent snow fall with Owens Creek in background, portrays just some of the beauty of the Catoctins.”

Submitted by CFA member, Tracy Lawrence



**Happy New Year to all.**

Thanks for your support of CFA.

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

Hope to see you at our CFA meetings and activities.